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English Records of Maratha History

*Poona Residency Correspondence*

Volume 2

Poona Affairs

1786-1797

(Malet's Embassy)

Edited by

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**English Records of Maratha History**  
**Poona Residency Correspondence**

General Editor—Sir Jadunath Sarkar

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MADHAVRAO NARAYAN PESHWA  
BORN 18 APRIL 1774 – DIED 27 OCTOBER 1795

## INTRODUCTION.

### *Life-sketch of Malet.*

Charles Warre Malet, the eldest son of the Rev. Alexander Malet, rector of Combe-Floreay, Somerset, etc., was born in 1752. He was a descendant in the 21st generation of William Malet of Grenville. He arrived in India at an early age and in 1770 entered the service of the East India Company as a Factor at Bombay. In 1774 he was posted at Cambay as head of the English factory and Resident at the Court of the local Nawab. After filling various posts, he was in 1785 appointed Resident Minister at Poona. Before joining his appointment, he was ordered to pay a visit to Mahadji Sindia at Mathura, and he had therefore to make a tour of India, which he accomplished between January and November 1785. He reached Calcutta on 18th November, and having received his commission from Mr. John Macpherson, the acting Governor General, reached Bombay by sea in January 1786, and assumed charge of his office at Poona on 3rd March following. Under instructions from Lord Cornwallis he successfully negotiated the treaty of alliance between the East India Company, the Peshwa, and the Nizam, against Tipu Sultan, and had it formally executed in June 1790. For this and his services during the ensuing war, he was created a baronet, 24th Feb. 1791.

He resigned his post at Poona on 22nd Feb. 1797 as a protest against Mr. Duncan being preferred to him for the Governorship of Bombay, and after acting as a member of the Bombay Council for some ten months, retired from the service and left Bombay for England on 13th February 1798. Thereupon he married Susanne, daughter of the deceased artist James Wales, from whom he left 8 sons ; the eldest Sir Alexander Malet was British ambassador at Berlin from 1856 to 1866 ; another son Sir Arthur Malet was member of the Bombay Council ; a third son Hugh Malet was Collector of Thana and established the sanitarium of Matheran where Malet's spring is still a curious

sight. Octavius Warre Malet, evidently another son, entered the East India Company's Civil Service (Bengal) as a Writer on 30th April 1831 and served at Cuttack for some years.

Sir Charles Warre Malet died on 24th January 1815, and his wife 53 years after him in 1868. Such is the brief sketch of his career, which we shall now review at greater length and which will be found very well illustrated throughout his voluminous correspondence printed in the following pages.

Two notable individuals were associates of Malet in Poona; one was the great artist Wales, who organized a painting school for the young Peshwa and who painted the portraits of the Peshwa Madhavrao Narayan, Nana Fadnis, Mahadji Sindia and of a grand Darbar in which Malet is shown as presenting the treaty of June 1790 to the young Peshwa for his ratification. Wales died in a destitute condition on 13th November 1795 and his daughter after her return to England married Malet in 1799. The story of Wales' life and work can be gathered from letters of 5th January and 18th February 1796 and 20th February 1797 in the sequel (Nos. 353, 370 and 373).

Another gentleman was Malet's clever assistant Uthoff. In his last letter dated 22nd February 1797 he writes that he had served the Company for 17 years. He must have therefore entered service in 1780 and Malet recommended him as his successor at Poona. This recommendation was not accepted, and Uthoff also resigned his post as Assistant Resident soon after Malet had gone away.

### *Purpose of his Appointment at Poona.*

It was at Cambay that Malet, in 1775, came in contact with Raghoba Dada who was flying before the pursuing forces of his adversaries,—the Poona Ministers, victorious at the battle of Arras. Malet gave the fugitive Peshwa shelter at Cambay and helped him to reach Surat in safety in the Company's boats.\* The espousal of Raghoba's cause by the British led to the first Maratha war, which convulsed India for seven years and in the course of which Mahadji Sindia, as a result of his successful efforts to save the Maratha interests, attained great prominence

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\*Forbes' *Oriental Memoirs*, i. ch. 16.

in the direction of the affairs of the State. The treaty of Salbye which closed the war in 1782 provided that Mahadji was to be a guarantee for the due observance of the stipulations of the treaty on the part of the English and the Court of Poona. Thus arose the necessity for the appointment of a permanent British Resident representing the Governor General at the Court of Sindia. David Anderson, who had negotiated the treaty, continued to work as Resident and remove the various causes of friction to which the vagueness of some of the articles had subsequently given rise. The increased importance of Mahadji Sindia in Maratha politics naturally resulted in the Court of Poona being thrown into the background and angered Nana Fadnis, who was then conducting Maratha affairs in the name of the boy Peshwa. In such a predicament Nana began to seek an opportunity for opening direct dealings with the Governor General and throwing away the medium of Sindia. The result was the appointment of Malet at Poona.

In this connection the author of the *Cambridge History of India*, mentions, on page 333, Volume V, that when Macpherson, the acting Governor General at Calcutta, refused to comply with Nana Fadnis' request for British aid against Tipu Sultan, "Nana applied to Goa for alliance, a step which alarmed Macpherson into establishing a Resident at Poona". This account is not correct, because the records prove that Malet's embassy had been determined upon by Warren Hastings, who was Governor General up to 5th February 1785.

#### *Journey overland to Calcutta.*

The Court of Poona had frequent and intimate dealings with Bombay rather than with Calcutta, and an official well versed in the affairs of the West Coast had to be selected as British ambassador at the Court of Poona under the direct control of the supreme Government of Calcutta. Charles Malet, who belonged to the Bombay Presidency, having worked for 15 years as a successful man of business at Cambay and Surat, was now called upon to accept diplomatic service to represent British interests at Poona. He was ordered, before joining his appointment, to report himself to the Governor General at Calcutta in order to obtain from him direct personal instructions about his duties



and the particular mission he was to carry out. The occasion was to be utilized by Malet in making an extensive tour of northern India for exploring the country, his chief task being to visit Mahadji Sindia on the way in order to remove by personal discussion any adverse suspicions which he might have begun to entertain against the appointment of a separate British Resident at Poona. The Bombay Government wrote to Malet on 18th January 1785, "It is our fixed intention to embrace every opportunity of procuring a knowledge of the interior parts of Hindustan so repeatedly recommended by the Court of Directors. For this purpose we have directed Capt. Reynolds, our surveyor, to accompany you until you arrive at Poona; and Mr Thomas Wilkinson is appointed your assistant. You have to proceed to Calcutta by the route of Mahadji Sindia's camp". A competent medical officer, Surgeon Crusoe, was attached to Malet's party to render medical help in this long and arduous journey.

Malet kept a full and detailed record of his journey which has been printed by Forrest in his historical selections as "Malet's Diary". He left Bombay on 27th January, and reaching Surat by sea and proceeding via Broach, Pawagad, Dohad, Ujjain and Gwalior, reached Agra on 9th May and wrote to James Anderson to arrange for his visit to Mahadji Sindia. He writes, "I learn from Anderson that Mahadji Sindia seems averse to my appointment at Poona. I feel awkwardly circumstanced. The repugnance of Mahadji Sindia to my appointment taking place, cannot be reconciled to the principles of friendship or reason\*." A little later, on 20th May 1785, a formal meeting took place between them in a tent near Mathura. It was altogether a ceremonial function and no cordial conversations ensued, as Mahadji felt the appointment of an independent minister at Poona a blow to his own prestige, particularly at a time when his help was being courted by the Moghul Emperor. As the Emperor's camp was not then far from Mathura, Malet proceeded to it and offered him his respects on 6th June. Thereafter he returned to Agra where he awaited further instructions about his journey to Calcutta.

\*Forrest's Maratha Series, Vol I, pp 485, 508 and 511.

The cold reception he had met with from Mahadji Sindia made a lasting impression on Malet's mind. Throughout his vast correspondence one clearly notices the strong aversion which Malet entertained towards Mahadji ever afterwards. He loses no opportunity of running him down.

Malet left Agra on 22nd July and travelling via Benares (18th August) and Patna (24th Sept.), reached Calcutta on 18th Oct. 1785. On 13th November following he received his credentials and instructions from the Governor General and Council about his duties as their minister at the Peshwa's Court. He immediately left Calcutta by sea, reached Bombay on 25th February 1786, and Poona 3rd March, on which latter day he assumed the duties of his office.\*

It is mainly, if not entirely, in the field of diplomacy that Malet distinguished himself during his eleven years' embassy at Poona. He does not seem to have taken any interest in the Company's trade, and except one elaborate report in that connection, which he forwarded to the Governor General in 1788, and which does not touch the foreign or oversea trade of the Marathas in any way, he has left no record on that subject which would deserve our study. The Marathas did not care to develop trade with the outside world and bought European articles through the English importers. Hence, the papers printed in this volume have entirely a political significance and concern all the intricate varieties and ramifications of Maratha politics and administration.

#### *Absences from Poona.*

Malet spent most of his time at Poona, except for a few visits to Bombay on grounds either of health or business. When he arrived at Poona at the beginning of March 1786 the Marathas were at war with Tipu Sultan and Nana Fadnis was away in camp at Badami, where Malet was asked to proceed in order to have his first interview with that minister. The siege and fall of Badami (No. 9), together with the Maratha tactics of war and his first impressions of the Peshwa's court (No. 3) are graphically described by Malet and afford very pleasant reading.

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\* Forbes' *Oriental Memoirs*, II ch. 12-15

During the interval of eleven years, Malet was absent from Poona on the following visits :—

(1) Dec. 1787, to say good-bye to the retiring Governor Boddam ;

(2) Jan. 1790, to confer with the newly appointed Governor Abercromby ;

(3) 30th April to 9th June 1793, to congratulate General Abercromby on his obtaining the Order of the Bath ;

(4) 11th May to 30th June 1794, Malet visited the Ellora caves in the company of the artist Wales. In this trip he contracted malaria which kept him long confined to bed ;

(5) June to November 1795 was quite a long absence at Bombay due to disappointment at his being passed over by Jonathan Duncan, his junior, who was selected for the Governor-ship of Bombay ,

This was an eventful time at Poona, marked by the untimely death of the promising Peshwa Madhavrao Narayan.

(6) From 4th June to 7th Dec. 1796 Malet was again absent in Bombay not wishing to take part in the disputes at Poona about the succession to the Peshwaship.

### *The Residency Records.*

The Hand-book to the Records in the Alienation Office, Poona, published by the Government of Bombay, gives in detail the nature and contents of what are known as the Residency Records, which number about a hundred files and cover the last 32 years of Maratha history (1786–1818). During this period four British Officials, Malet, Palmer, Close, and Elphinstone mainly held the post of the resident British Ambassador at the Peshwa's Court ; and these files pertain to their official transactions and contain both their outward and inward correspondence, mostly of a political nature. The outward files contain letters written and sent out by the Residents : while the inward files contain letters received by the Residents from the Governors General and Governors of the various Presidencies and the Residents with the Raja of Nagpur, with Smidia, the Nizam and other princes. These Poona Residency files after being saved from

fire, remained secluded and unattended to at the Alienation Office for a hundred years, and their historical importance was not realised either by the Government or by the public until 1927, when the Shivaji Memorial Committee, at the instance of the Kolhapur Durbar, happily offered to pay Rs 3000 for taking four typed copies of them all, provided that Government agreed to hand over one copy to the Committee for public use. The work of typing was started under the supervision of Mr. H. G. Franks and was nearly completed within three years. This was indeed a capital service to history, as the papers were extremely brittle and would have entirely perished if they had not been thus saved by copying; nor would the present editing work have been possible if the files had not been so typed already. When the work of examining the Modi records of the Peshwas' Daftar was undertaken in 1929, the Commissioner brought these typed files of English papers to the notice of the editor and suggested to the Government to have them compared and corrected. Government at once agreed to the proposal, but finding their finances extremely crippled, offered to print the material if voluntary workers could be found to undertake the editing work at their own expense. Sir Jadunath Sarkar and Mr. G. S. Sardesai accepted the task, and started the series by editing the first few volumes themselves and leaving the completion of the work to other hands in future. Out of the 100 files, the first twenty refer to the period of Malet and have now been examined and selected from, and the result is being presented to the public in the first four volumes of this series. It is hoped that Government and the public will not allow this work to remain incomplete.

The present volume is planned to bring together all the important topics pertaining to the Court of Poona during the whole of Malet's tenure, taking account of both the outward and inward correspondence. The latter covers despatches received by Malet from Cornwallis, Kennaway and Kirkpatrick (the two successive residents at Hyderabad), Palmer (Resident with Sindia) and a few from the Governors of Bombay and Madras. The handwritings of all these and of Boddam, Ramsay, Archibald Campbell, Uthoff and several others can be seen in these files. Here and there are found incorporated

English translations of letters from Maratha officials and news-writers received and forwarded by the Residents. Some of Cornwallis's despatches were published by Ross in three volumes so long ago as 1858, but they do not take much account of Maratha affairs, possibly because these papers were not available to Ross. Care has however been taken that papers already published should not be printed here. The work of making the present selection has not been quite easy, but nothing that is worthy of study, it is hoped, has been omitted, although it is quite possible that the same subject will be found repeated in several papers. In the original files some confidential items were found written in cypher, but decoded afterwards. Some of the letters contain marginal remarks made by the addressee, but they have not been reproduced here.

### *The Site of the Poona Residency.*

The establishment of the Poona Residency is another memorable work of Malet. When he arrived at Poona in March 1786 the Peshwa's Government had reserved for his stay the Gaikwad Wada in Narayan Peth, the house now occupied by the *Kesari* office. But, as he did not like to live in the midst of the native town, he preferred tents during the dry season and proposed to build a small unpretentious house for himself. As Nana Fadnis was absent from Poona, the question of the selection of a convenient site for a bungalow took long to be settled.\* Malet pitched his tents outside Sadashiv Peth on an open plot later known as Khasgiwala's garden, and allowed some of his retinue to occupy the Gaikwad house. On 23rd November 1786 (No. 35) he writes thus in this connection, "Finding the quarters allotted to me in town unwholesome and inconvenient in several respects, particularly as giving rise to frequent little disputes with the town people, which I am most anxious to avoid, I encamped on the 22nd instant with Nana's consent and approbation, just without the city at the conflux of the rivers Moola and Moota, where I propose residing during the dry season". At this spot he afterwards built a fairly commodious bungalow, which came to be known as the British Residency and which was burnt down by the Peshwa's troops

on 5th Nov. 1817. It was afterwards rebuilt and housed the District Court of Justice for nearly a century. As this confluence of the two rivers, was a spot consecrated for the performance of Sati cremations, Malet notices in his letter of 3rd June 1787 (No. 63) how the sight of burning widows had become habitual to him. In a letter dated 16th January 1790 (No. 89) the members of the Residency and staff are enumerated. Another letter dated 6th June 1787 (No. 66) mentions that the expenses of the Resident and his staff were fixed at Rs. 5,000 per month in addition to a discretionary grant of Rs. 4,000 for secret expenses. The monthly salary of Malet is nowhere mentioned : it may be presumed to be about Rs. 1,500. His assistant Uthhoff's salary was Rs. 512 per month.

### *The Style of Malet's Writings.*

The style of Malet's writings, his personal character, and the main topics and results of his eleven years' residence as British Ambassador at the Court of Poona, can be correctly estimated by the reader from an actual perusal of the copious correspondence here presented for the first time. He ordinarily writes long, and cumbrous sentences, except when he is vigorously advocating any particular measure, when he waxes eloquent. His thoughts frequently appear unending, being saddled with saving clauses and provisos, which at times obscure the real meaning he wishes to convey. Sometimes when he is unwilling to commit himself to any particular view or a determined line of conduct, or when he wishes to save himself from any possible misconstruction, he uses such an involved style that it becomes difficult to follow him. But such cases are not many. Ordinarily he is eloquent and often caustic and exhibits an amount of passion. He belonged to the age of Burke and Junius, to the 18th century of prose and reason ; and while copying the verbose and elevated style current at the time, he lacks both its vigor and perspicuity. In India Malet had no cultured society to move in and he probably possessed rather rough and exclusive manners ; hence the polish one usually meets with in the writings of his Indian contemporaries, Cornwallis or Warren Hastings, is lacking in his letters. Brevity is not his virtue,

Malet drafted all his correspondence himself and used his clerks to copy it for despatch. His handwriting is not at all easy to read, and has now become more difficult to decipher owing to the faded ink. It required an immense amount of labour for our copyists to typewrite the numerous files of Malet's writings. He was an indefatigable worker and considered no trifle too mean for his notice. His advocacy is often passionate and he occasionally fires out such masterpieces of thought and argument that he nearly crushes his opponent.

*Classified contents of Malet's correspondence.*

The period of Malet's diplomacy at Poona exhibits a keen contest for supremacy in India between the two powers, Maratha and British, and is illustrated by the varied materials which the student has here at his disposal for study. These two rivals for power naturally involved in their struggle nearly all the other great and small potentates existing in peninsular India during that period. It is therefore difficult to classify and arrange all the varied materials according to any particular topic. Most of the papers deal with several subjects at once, and must be studied with reference to other published sources bearing on them. It was therefore thought more convenient to present the English papers in a strictly chronological order, so that any student knowing the approximate time of an event or occurrence can easily trace the required documents in this collection.

Twenty files exist in the Alienation Office dealing with Malet's eleven years' career which can be conveniently divided into the following four main volumes :—

- (1) North Indian Affairs or the Career of Mahadji Sindia ;
- (2) Affairs of the Court of Poona ;
- (3) The Allies' War against Tipu Sultan ;
- (4) Maratha War against Nizam, popularly known as the Campaign of Kharda.

A few minor topics which were found treated in Malet's correspondence, have been for the present kept apart for future

disposal, as they could not be conveniently included in any of these volumes. These are :—

- (1) Affairs of the Rajas of Kolhapur and Sawantwadi ;
- (2) Affairs of the Nawabs of Janjira, Surat, Cambay and Karnool, and some Maratha Sardars like Angria and Gaikwad.
- (3) A few matters of special study, such as slavery, Hindu pilgrimages to Benares and other places, the *dawk* or postal communications, legal and inter-state disputes, besides coinage, exchange and similar topics of an economic nature.

There exist several gaps in the Poona files of the Residency Records ; but the materials here lacking were found to exist at Calcutta in the Imperial Records Office, where Sir Jadunath Sarkar had to work long and hard in examining and marking out for transcription the documents required for filling these gaps ; the papers selected by him after being censored and released for publication by the Government of India, have been incorporated in this volume. It will thus be realised that no labour has been spared to make the volumes as complete and fully serviceable to the student of history as our means permitted.

*Peculiar value of the Residency Records.*

( Non-Marathi readers were till now greatly handicapped in their study of the period covered by the records of the Poona Residency. The only relevant papers treating of the subject were all in Marathi, that is, those that were published by Khare and Parasnis : but they could not serve outside students ignorant of Marathi. The present selections will remove this difficulty by offering fuller and more critical accounts coming as they do from the pen of responsible British officials in various parts of India. Here and there they supply some fresh information, not available in Marathi.) For instance, during 1791 and the following year when Cornwallis himself assumed the command of war, he suggested that the young Peshwa should visit the front in order to impress upon the enemy the unity and friendship of the allies. This subject of the Peshwa's going into camp was argued at Poona for months together, but



Nana was inexorable, and it is a pity that the adolescent Peshwa was not given an opportunity of gaining actual experience of warfare which was considered so very essential by most of his predecessors. Malet's letters (Nos. 100 and 102) and several others that follow, discuss this subject fully. In his letter of 29th June 1789 (No. 79) Cornwallis offered Nana, at his request, a hospitable residence at Benares, which shows that circumstances had arisen even as early as that date to make Nana think of retiring from his official duties. This subject of his retirement has been frequently adverted to in this correspondence, and becomes full of interest in view of Nana's untenable position at Poona. Apart from his main duties, Malet was ever most careful in bringing to the notice of his superiors or the authorities concerned such topics as were beneficial to the interests of the East India Company in other spheres. For this purpose he employed trustworthy news-agents at different places, among whom may be prominently mentioned his Persian teacher Sayyad Nuruddin Husen Khan and his several sons, whose names have become familiar in Maratha history. Many items of interesting news and curious happenings will be found scattered throughout Malet's correspondence. To give one instance, the Peshwa made presents of huge animals to the king of England, the transport of which presented a difficult problem. The subsequent arrangements for their despatch in ships from Bombay have been mentioned in a letter dated 26th January 1792 (No. 125).

### *Raghunathrao's Jewels.*

When Raghunathrao, running for his life before the armies of the Poona Ministers, went to Surat and accepted British shelter in 1775, he borrowed large amounts of money from the Bombay Government pledging certain jewels with them as security. When the war was over and Raghunathrao died soon after, Nana Fadnis offered to pay off the debt amounting to a little over six lacs of Rupees and secure the jewels. The matter came for consideration before Lord Cornwallis, who anxious to cement the friendship with the Marathas when the triple alliance was being negotiated against Tipu in 1789, recommended to

the Home authorities to remit the debt and return the jewels, which had in the meantime been sent to England. Lord Cornwallis's recommendation was accepted and the jewels were subsequently returned. The papers printed at the end of this volume will explain the whole affair, which was in agitation for over 20 years. The jewels were delivered to the Peshwa at Poona on 24th April 1798 by the Resident, Col. Palmer. The subject will be found referred to in letters Nos. 139, 256, 257, 344, 345, 352, and all those in section 9.

### *Epitome of Maratha History.*

It may perhaps be news to our readers that Malet immediately on his arrival at Poona planned to write and actually wrote at least up to 1707, "A History of the Maratha Empire". In a letter of 8th November 1786 (No. 32) he writes, "In this persuasion I am now busied in preparing an epitome of the History of the Maratha Empire from its foundation to the present time, comprising a period of about 130 years". The Governor General in his reply of 26th February following (No. 54) approved the idea and encouraged Malet to execute it quickly. The project was reported to the Court of Directors whose long letter dated 25th April 1792 (No. 133) mentions this work of history and of a Political and Historical Glossary which Malet had in hand and contains a further suggestion for Malet to write sketches of the Nizam and some other persons at Hyderabad. The subject is again adverted to in a letter dated 3 October 1792 (No. 149). Malet wrote several parts of this history and forwarded them in instalments to the Governor General for further action. It is a matter of great regret that these chapters cannot now be traced in India, and we know absolutely nothing as to where they are or whether the work was ever completed by Malet. Sir Jadunath Sarkar made a minute but unsuccessful search for this composition at the Imperial Records Office at Calcutta.

### *Pen-pictures and Reports of Interviews.*

It is not so much the literary merit of Malet's correspondence that will attract the student of history, as the vivid pen-pictures he presents of various personages that figured at the Court of

Poona during the period he was Resident. Such sketches are possible only from a foreign observer like Malet, as he notes all that strikes him as novel or strange in his experiences of men and events. Indian writers do not usually give such descriptions because of their familiarity with the surroundings. The boy Peshwa Madhavrao II, Nana Fadnis, Haripant Phadke, Mahadji Sindia, Parashuram Bhau and a host of other personages, of whose physical and mental traits we know next to nothing from the Marathi papers, are here found portrayed (often with a spice of malice) by a master hand who supplies realistic glimpses of those times. Journeys, battles, sieges, darbars and modes of life are found minutely depicted. Above all, Malet possesses an almost univalled skill in reporting the numerous long and at times acrimonious interviews which he had with Nana and other prominent members of the Poona Court. He never forgets to add minute items of useful information received by him through his numerous reporters and spies, specially employed in various places. Fortunately for him, he had in Cornwallis just the sort of master admirably suited to his temperament. Malet almost worshipped Cornwallis, from whom he received valuable guidance and upon whom he bestows unstinted praise from a full heart. Not a single discordant note can be detected in his correspondence with the Governor General during their official connection of seven years. This became all the more striking, when Cornwallis was succeeded by Sir John Shore, towards whom Malet's tone assumed a visible change of a merely official and formal character. Malet's supersession in the appointment to the Bombay Governorship must have originated from Shore.

*The play of two vigorous Personalities, Nana and Malet.*

It will thus be noticed that the vast mass of correspondence here printed comes from eminent diplomats such as Cornwallis, Malet, Kennaway, Kirkpatrick, Palmer and others, and discloses the wonderful play of two vigorous personalities at the Court of Poona, viz. Nana and Malet, who came together for the first time on the stage of Maratha history, each trying to get the better of the other in safeguarding by diplomacy the highest interests

of his respective State. Fired with innate enthusiasm, both worked and toiled unceasingly in the service of their nations. The period of eleven years through which their rivalry continued unabated, was in many ways most eventful in Maratha history. If there was any chance after the death of the Peshwa Madhav Rao I for the Marathas to recover their lost prestige, it was only when Nana Fadnis obtained by the treaty of Salbye in 1782 a free and unrestricted opportunity to restore the Maratha power to its former greatness. A typical administrator as Nana was, he was handicapped only by his inability personally to lead armies into the battlefield or to improve the nation's defective military organization. His only chance lay in befriending Mahadji Sindia and securing his willing co-operation. For a time, while Mahadji was working in the north, Nana set himself to the task of recovering the Maratha prestige at Poona with the help of Malet, but soon realized that he was powerless. Nana urged upon Malet the restoration of Salsette, endeavoured to wipe out the existence of the Sidi from Janjira on the west coast and encouraged Mahadji to revive the Maratha claims of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi in the northern territories. Nana also now and then attempted to enforce Maratha permits on English trading vessels. These and various other affairs of a similar nature reveal Nana's efforts to regain the past Maratha glory. He undertook a war against Tipu in 1786, but as the British did not render him the promised help, he had to save his face by accepting a humiliating offer of Tipu, which is known as the treaty of Gajendragad. An excellent analysis of this war can be noticed in Malet's letter dated 27th June 1787 (No. 68).

Nana did not take long to be undeceived in the high expectations he had formed from the appointment of an independent British Resident at Poona. He even proposed to send a direct Maratha mission to the King of England to seek his support, but he found to his dismay that in all essential matters his overtures were flatly but gently turned down by Malet, so that when Cornwallis proposed in 1789 an alliance with the Maratha Court against Tipu, Nana did not evince any enthusiasm about it. He had not the boldness to reject it

either, and found at the end of the war the British prestige considerably heightened and the Maratha lowered in proportion, a position which Cornwallis aptly summarizes by saying, "We have effectually crippled our enemies without making our friends too formidable."

Sorely disappointed in all his attempts, Nana proposed to retire from politics altogether and seek peace from his political worries in religious pursuits at Benares. He found in Malet an antagonist who checkmated him at every step and who possibly caused him life-long regret that he had of his own accord invited his presence at Poona. Such are the circumstances in which Mahadji Sindia arrived on the scene, contributing an additional factor to the politics of the Peshwa's Court.

Our interest is now only in history, and the student is fortunate in having two or more versions of one and the same event, or reflections concerning one and the same character, from two different angles of vision, Maratha and British. Together the whole forms a moving picture of political development, comprising the views and measures, the checks and counter-checks working in different directions but arising from the same central figures Nana and Malet. Here is a chance for our history being enriched.

*An intensive study of Maratha policy.*

(As explained above there is hardly any other period of Maratha history for which we get such profuse materials both Marathi and English, as can enable us to treat the subject from two distinct points of view. The English papers do not perhaps supply many new facts, not already available in Marathi; but they present a picture of the life of the Marathas of those days, their ceremonials and their etiquette, and above all reveal the intrigues of the Poona Court, Brahmanic in composition and conservative in its outlook, which often hindered the political advance of the nation, so that one gets in these papers the general background for a comprehensive treatment of the historical occurrences. One learns from them how important interests of the State were sacrificed by the ministers for flimsy considerations like auspicious moments for paying visits or starting siege

operations. Haripant Phadke wasted four long months in visiting the Nizam when his presence was urgently needed in the theatre of war. Writes Malet to Cornwallis on 4th March 1791, "While, since your Lordship's departure from Calcutta on 5th December you have drawn cavalry from Oude, infantry, cattle and stores from Bengal, marched the main Madras army from the southern confines of the Carnatic, reassembled it with reinforcements of men, stores and cattle, in the neighbourhood of Arnee, and actually marched on 4th February for invading the enemy's country in concert with the allies, the promised army of this mighty State that should have been assembled in October, did not on 23rd February exceed ten thousand men and was not advanced one hundred koss from Poona." And this in the hey-day of Nana Fadnis's regime ! The contrast is painfully obvious. Malet, quietly and steadily exerting himself to help Cornwallis to win the war, supplied him not only with cattle, money and stores, but what was most valuable for success in military operations, the minutest intelligence about the character and movements of the Maratha allies, in concert with whom Cornwallis had to work at the front. In June 1790 when the treaty of triple alliance was completed, the Maratha and British were on a footing of equality ; two years later, when the war was concluded, the superiority had unquestionably passed to the British, as can be noticed from Nos. 118 and 119 of September 14th and October 20th, 1791. This grand lesson comes home to any one who reads these papers, wherein Malet has reproduced with biting sarcasm his interviews with Bahiro-pant and Nana, showing thereby how skilfully he circumvented nearly all the Maratha members of consequence at the Court of Poona, and how even Nana often found himself nonplussed by Malet's queries and tactics. One must not forget however to note that Malet had behind him the full support of the Governor General and the British power in whatever he argued and discussed ; while Nana though the *de facto* ruler was not master of his own house, and had to work with instruments of questionable loyalty. The allies' war with Tipu Sultan supplies an illustration. Whatever meetings and conversations might take place at Poona between Malet and the Minister, the actual operations were conducted by Cornwallis, Parashuram Bhau and Haripant

in mutual co-operation, so that the part of the latter two in bringing the war to a successful conclusion was by no means unimportant.

The only occasion when Malet failed to come out with flying colours in his diplomatic contests with Nana was, when the latter openly charged the Governor General with breach of faith in refusing the Marathas British assistance in their war with Tipu. In this connection Malet's letters dated 30th November and 8th December 1786 (Nos. 37 and 39) deserve particular notice. Nor was Malet oblivious of the real worth of Nana, whose achievements he has well analysed in his letter (No. 318), dated 20th August 1796.

The share of the Governor General Lord Cornwallis in shaping the Indian politics of those days was not less conspicuous. The reader clearly notices that Cornwallis behaved more honourably and impartially towards the Court of Poona than Malet, who ever suspected evil motives in all persons belonging to the Maratha State service. In his letter of 30th July 1791 (No. 112) Malet attributes evil designs to Haripant Phadke, as the latter dispensed with the mediation both of Malet and Bahiro pant Mehendale during the course of the negotiations that concluded the war with Tipu. In his letter of 14th September 1791 (No. 118) he thus tersely summarizes his opinion about the Peshwa and the Nizam,—“the Peshwa is our rival in power, the Nizam a candidate for security.” Malet was obviously overawed by Cornwallis's rectitude and uprightness, and therefore thought twice before making any unwarranted insinuations. The reader's attention is drawn to the letter of 30th July 1791 (No. 112) and the one following it, in which Malet bitterly invighs against the Peshwa's Court. He won over by presents and promises Nana's confidential agent Bahiro pant Mehendale. In his letter of 13th May 1795 Malet mentions that in the eyes of Nana, Bahiro pant was partial to the English interests and worked against those of his own country. This is only one typical instance out of many and shows how far Malet succeeded in seducing the minds of several Marathas in responsible posts. Thus, Malet's presence at Poona was like that of modern ambassadors, of the nature of an official spy

whose duty it is not to miss any plan or project that aimed a blow at the British interests. Another typical instance, that of Tukoji Holkar, can be aptly quoted in this connection. Once he was snubbed for opposing the triple alliance (letter No. 93, dated 20th May 1790) ; but later on he applied to the English for help against Mahadji Sindia, in a letter to the Governor General, dated 8th January 1793 (No. 160), which proves how the various members of the Maratha Confederacy were falling out among themselves.

Malet's two immediate successors, Palmer and Close, however, pursued a more disinterested policy. In Elphinstone again we shall find an apt disciple of Malet, who improved and utilised the intelligence system started by Malet. Cornwallis's masterful personality is well disclosed in his correspondence, particularly for the year 1789, when the triple alliance against Tipu was being discussed. Malet's successful diplomacy at Poona won for him universal expressions of praise from all his superiors in and outside India, and will be found described in a few papers which have been separately arranged for convenience of study in section 8 (letters Nos. 359-376).

One excellent trait of Malet's character which is noticeable throughout his correspondence, is his scrupulous honesty in matters of money. The advent of Cornwallis at once introduced a new and healthy tone into the whole administration of British India, and most rigidly put down the rampant venality then prevailing. He stopped the practice of offering and receiving presents, so common in those days. Malet followed Cornwallis in this respect so faithfully that one notices with great relief the healthy change from the corrupt practices that stained the age of Clive and Hastings. At his final departure from Poona Malet was given a farewell gift of Rs. 15,000 by the newly installed Peshwa Bajirao II. Instead of pocketing this amount, he carried it into the Company's accounts, in the same manner in which he had dealt already with the gifts and presents he had received at Poona from various chiefs and officials on ceremonial occasions during the preceding eleven years. This uprightness in money transactions stands to the lasting credit of Malet and earned a very favourable opinion for British character in general. (No. 357.)



*Malet's contribution in undermining the Maratha Power.*

One may here pause to ask what was the main achievement of Malet's eleven years of diplomatic service at Poona? We can unhesitatingly reply that his cautious and farsighted policy raised the prestige of the British Power, by almost unnoticed stages, and proportionately lowered that of the Marathas. His intimate knowledge of Maratha character and politics and his mastery of Persian and Urdu, enabled him to obtain first hand information in all matters. His intelligence system was far-flung and perfect, and he was free to spend a large sum, sometimes Rs. 4,000 a month, at his discretion, much of which was usefully employed in bribing the starving underlings of the Court and often important personages there. He had a regularly paid European spy named Yvon in the Maratha army and thus received the earliest and most accurate information of the French intrigues at Poona and Seringapatam. In this way Malet was able to prepare the ground for establishing British supremacy so thoroughly, that Wellesley on his arrival did not take long to pull down the edifice of Maratha independence in India already rotten to the core. Malet conciliated and controlled Nana Fadnis even at the zenith of his power, and more than once successfully thwarted his ambitious projects. A true British patriot, Malet assiduously worked in all possible ways to weaken the forces that bound together the various members of the Maratha Raj. Throughout his vast correspondence, he has hardly a good word to say of the Marathas or about Mahadji Sindia. His was a temperament which always suspected the intentions or instinctively misunderstood the motives of those with whom he had to deal. He writes to Lord Cornwallis, "but, my lord, I will here once for all make an explicit declaration that I believe these people (Marathas) are as incapable of pursuing their object by direct means as the serpent is of proceeding in a straight line: their education, their institutions, and the state of their society lead them, nay force them, into obliquities which nothing but the decided line of your Lordship's successful rectitude can correct or control." Instances of similar invective are noticeable throughout Malet's writings.

*British Warning to Mahadji Sindia*

One outstanding fact that strikes a reader in the papers published in this volume is the studied aim of the British power to subdue the Marathas and establish their own supremacy in India. This was the main purpose to which all British efforts were then directed. Mahadji Sindia was perhaps the only great obstacle in the way of the British as he possessed a well organised army and the necessary power derived from the Emperor. Cornwallis administered to Sindia a warning in no unmistakable terms against reviving Maratha claims for Chauth upon Bengal and elsewhere. In this connection the reader is advised to study the emphatic pronouncement of Cornwallis communicated to Sindia. It was a most diplomatic move and nonplussed the Marathas completely. Cornwallis says, "You will inform Sindia that it is by my particular directions that you say that we have no desire to make any new acquisitions nor even to interfere in the internal affairs of the Mughal Empire if we can avoid it with honour and safety, but that if any of our neighbours should be rash enough to insult us by unjust demands, we feel ourselves both able and resolved to exact ample satisfaction." Letter No. 151 of 27th October 1792 similarly conveys important decisions formed by British policy towards the Indian powers.

*Object of Mahadji's Visit to Poona and his Death.*

The most eloquent and profuse comment that one would discover in Malet's papers is that upon the journey of Mahadji Sindia to Poona in 1792. This proved to be an event of extraordinary importance, as it roused all kinds of conjectures throughout India and mostly in the Deccan as to its real object. Revolution and bloodshed were openly feared. But the actual fact proved the visit not only quite innocent but even wholesome in some ways. One can easily see Mahadji's intentions. He was smarting under the checks he began to receive in his efforts to rehabilitate Maratha influence in the North, which had begun to wane since the death of Peshwa Madhavrao I. Mahadji did not approve of Nana's policy of putting down Tipu Sultan with the help of the British. Tukoji Holkar

was snubbed by Cornwallis for declining to join the Triple alliance against Tipu (No. 93 of 20th May 1790). Sindia and Holkar feared that the next British move would be directed against the Marathas. Sir John Shore in his minute of April 1794 (No. 223) admits that it was the presence of Col. Palmer at Mahadji's Court that prevented that chieftain from joining Tipu; otherwise Mahadji would have prevented the Peshwa from co-operating with the British in an alliance to cripple Tipu's power. In opposition to this, it is instructive to notice what Cornwallis writes to Malet on 18th August 1788: "The voluntary offer of the Poona administration to join in the war against Tipu, upon the supposition that he had forced us to a rupture by committing hostilities against our ally, the Raja of Travancore, places this Government on as advantageous a political ground with the Peshwa as I could wish or expect; and I think myself bound in justice to declare that your prudence and good sense must have greatly contributed to dispose them to go beyond the bounds of their usual caution, by taking a step decidedly favourable to our public honour and to our substantial interests." (Ross.) At the same time Cornwallis kept Sindia at arm's length, when the latter requested British help, in his sore need created by his reverse at Lalsot. On 11th January 1788 Cornwallis writes to Palmer, "not to entertain Sindia's proposals for assistance, as being precluded by the Act of Parliament, but at the same time holding out hopes that our hands may be set at liberty, by the violence of Tipu or the ambition of the French."

Politicians at Poona did not seem to realize the British ambitions which Mahadji was trying his best to check. The promising young Peshwa was, in Sindia's scheme, to be set on his legs to assume charge of the Maratha Government; and Mahadji intended to organize through him the Maratha Confederacy by compelling all its members to render implicit obedience to the central authority. Nana Fadnis distrusted Sindia's motive and feared being overshadowed by him, so that Sindia failed to obtain sympathetic and willing support in his endeavours to reform his army and oppose the British Power. Mahadji clearly foresaw the danger and came to Poona purposely

to organise the Maratha Government and bring about a united front. A few months' discussion at Poona cleared the issue. Curiously enough, there is mention of these occurrences not in the records of Poona itself but in the news-letters received at Hyderabad. The letters of 9th February 1793 (No. 165) and of 10th April 1793 (No. 177) printed in Section 4 reveal the nature of the affair accurately. Nana and Mahadji were outwardly reconciled in all except the vital point of bringing about unity in Maratha counsels. The Nizam became terribly afraid when he learnt of these happenings at Poona. The blow he had received at Udgir was still rankling in his heart. He feared Mahadji's armaments more than the diplomacy of Nana. Any way, one cannot be wrong in concluding that Mahadji came to Poona to reconstruct the Maratha Power and establish a kind of workable constitution in order to retrieve its lost prestige.

Nor were these vain hopes at the time, although they were completely blasted by two great calamities suffered by Maratha fortunes, the death of Mahadji on 12th February 1794 and that of the young Peshwa on 27th October 1795. Mahadji thought himself quite able to handle the situation properly and confront the British on equal terms when a suitable opportunity offered. In the first place, Mahadji had not staked all his fortunes in vain on the preparation of a disciplined army. In this connection it is interesting to note the great contrast between the positions of the British Residents at the Courts of Sindia and the Peshwa. Anderson, Kirkpatrick and Palmer worked at Sindia's Court in a humble and suppliant spirit; while the tone of Malet at Poona attained gradual height and quickly began to appear overbearing, if not positively insolent. Mahadji got Kirkpatrick removed for overstepping the bounds of his position. But Malet worked upon Nana's timid temperament so cleverly that the latter found it impossible to keep him at arm's length. Sindia's Residents had absolutely no knowledge of the movements and intentions of that Chief, whereas Malet knew the slightest whisper that was uttered in the council of Nana.

While Mahadji was living, the British were in some awe of the Maratha Power. In this respect Malet had repeatedly

conveyed his candid opinion to his superiors not to risk a war with the Marathas, nor to afford them any cause for unnecessary irritation. He had closely watched the British-Maratha contest of Warren Hastings's days and now sincerely believed that in an open rupture the Marathas if united, would prove formidable to the British arms, particularly as the Co.'s territories were scattered over three distant presidencies. The letters of the early part of 1792, particularly those dated 22, 24 and 29th February (Nos. 126-128) and the one of 20th March (No. 129) are eloquent in this respect, and deserve careful perusal.

Mahadji upon crossing the Narmada at once formed a grand plan : he met Raghoji Bhosle and wanted to meet the Nizam to rouse him into activity. But the game was smelt by the British Residents both at Poona and at Hyderabad, and the project did not materialise. Malet did not play an insignificant part in keeping Nana estranged from Sindia, and even assuring him of British help and protection if Sindia proved too strong or recalcitrant towards him. Malet advocated a waiting game during the lifetime of Nana and Mahadji, an opinion in which Cornwallis fully concurred. On 5th January 1794 (No. 204), about a month before the death of Mahadji, Malet writes to the Resident at Hyderabad :—

“ In the style of derogatory equality in which you mention the Poona Government as a part only instead of the Head of the Maratha empire, a fact which ought to be well known at least to you, I think I can trace your adoption of the language of the Court of Hyderabad, which in the true Muhammadan style affects to speak of every other Power with contempt and degradation, and as you seem to me to have carried the adoption of this language to the exceptional length of endangering a propagation of an erroneous idea, nay to the establishment of a dangerous contempt of a Power, with whose rivalry it will be our greatest happiness never to be honoured, permit me, to place your language in a proper point of view, to draw your attention to the predicament of this government, infinitely more probable than a similar supposition that you may assume for your Court, falling under the administration of a vigorous head in the person of the present Peshwa or of an ambitious minister in the person of Mahadji Sindia.”

Even the death of Mahadji Sindia did not lessen the alarm which the British felt at the rising fortunes of the Marathas. On 4th April 1794, i.e. nearly two months after Mahadji's death, Malet writing to Kirkpatrick says, "I certainly agree with you in the idea of a great mass of burden having devolved to this State by the death of Mahadji Sindia. But we must not forget that, by the same rule, an immense accession of power has lapsed to it by the absolute direction of the newly formed force of that extraordinary man. By this lapse, all the revenues that were lately talked of being ceded to M. Sindia in liquidation of his demands, will remain to the Peshwa's Government. It will be at liberty to employ Ali Bahadur, Holkar, or young Sindia in the unrivalled prosecution of its arms in the north and strengthening its force in the Deccan with the quotas of the other two either offensively or defensively."

### *The Young Peshwa's High Spirit and Untimely End*

The young Peshwa is described by Malet as growing into a spirited and active lad, slowly asserting himself and promising to imitate in valour and capacity some of his illustrious ancestors, so that if he came to rule the destinies of the Maratha Empire, as was quite likely, the British, he says, would not be able to withstand that Power. How he asserted himself even against Nana's advice, has been graphically told by Malet in two well known cases, viz. one that of the atrocities committed by Ghasiram in the case of some 20 Brahmins and the other that of the Sachiv of Bhor, whom Mahadji Sindia sheltered against the persecutions of Bajji Moreshvar, Nana's protege. Malet has reported a long conference he had in Poona on 27th December 1794 with the Peshwa and his ministers, in which the former took a prominent part and carried his point doggedly against the advice of his ministers. It was therefore a common view, held as firmly by the British as by the Maratha on-lookers at the time, that the death of Mahadji Sindia instead of weakening the Maratha State promised to concentrate all civil and military power in the Peshwa's hands,—a menace which Cornwallis's successor Shore did not like to provoke in the early months of 1795 by helping the Nizam when he was attacked by the

Marathas at Kharda. This Maratha menace became all the more formidable to the English after the Nizam's crushing defeat by the Peshwa's forces. On 27th June 1795, or exactly four months before the Peshwa's demise, the Resident wrote :—

“ The efficient authority of the Poona Government is now and has long been under the control of Nana Fadnis. For though the Peshwa has attained to maturity and is treated with every possible respect, as the Head of the Maratha Empire, he does not, I believe, transact any points of Government but at the recommendation or at least entire acquiescence of Nana Fadnis. The facility with which the Poona Government makes subservient to its views all the great members of the Maratha Empire, frequently even contrary to their own individual interests, renders it an unquestionable point that the Poona Government at present possesses very considerable control over all the members of their Empire. It is a well established point that unbounded ambition and encroachment are among the most prominent features of that Empire. Under these circumstances and the removal of almost every check or obstacle between the Marathas and the E. I. Co., a prospect is no doubt presented of a war between the Marathas and us.” (No. 254).

How prophetic are these words !! They came true under Wellesley, of course to the detriment of the Marathas.

The circumstances attendant on the death of the Peshwa Madhav Rao Narayan have been narrated fully and critically by Uhthoff, and will be read with great profit by those who care to determine whether the sudden end of the young man was due to an accident or suicide. The whole episode of Balwantrao Nagnath has also been clearly analysed, and little doubt is now left that the Peshwa was smarting under the uncongenial and often irksome control which Nana (certainly out of good intentions) exercised over his youthful and ambitious temperament. Grant Duff pronounces the event as deliberate suicide.

This tragic event in Maratha history was a calamity which practically sealed the fate of Maratha independence, which

the utmost effort of Nana's statecraft could not save. The event also marks a distinct break in the story, but as Malet's tenure extended over a year after that occurrence, it was found convenient for chronological continuity to carry this volume on to the retirement of Malet on 21st February 1797.

### *Maratha Neglect of Army Reform*

But however superior the Marathas had been in some respects, they were surely weak in point of discipline and artillery. Cornwallis has thus emphasised the importance of this in a letter to the Court of Directors,—“However important a good artillery may be in the military establishment of any European nation, I believe it is nowhere of so much real consequence as it is to your interests in India; for it is the branch of the military science, in which our superiority over the natives is the greatest, and whose effects are beyond comparison the most decisive. It is therefore well deserving of your utmost attention to maintain that corps in a state of as much perfection as may be practicable; and with that view great pains should be taken to supply the vacancies of lieutenant fire-workers with young men who have been properly educated, and whose talents appear to qualify them for becoming useful artillery officers.”

As early as 1787 Cornwallis had formed a correct estimate of the Maratha army. On 14th December 1787 he writes, “It must be evident that an equality of forces as to number between Marathas and us, can never be deemed equal in point of strength, since there is no comparison between the undisciplined rabble that compose a Maratha army and the well disciplined battalions in our service. This consideration ought to weigh with Nana for supplying a number much beyond an equal proportion.” It is a sad comment on Nana's policy that this common opinion about Maratha armies did not appeal to him or persuade him to support heartily the reform undertaken by Sindia.

Mahadji Sindia had clearly grasped this defect and concentrated all his resources and energy on removing it. It was a pity that the central government of Poona looked upon



Mahadji's experiment with suspicion and alarm, instead of enforcing it upon all their military leaders as a general measure. In the extensive records of Nana Fadnis, although daily instances came to his notice of delays and dereliction of duty on the part of Maratha sardars, there is not a single reference to the question of army reform, so that when Mahadji, Haripant Phadke, and the young Peshwa died in succession within a year or two, the Maratha Power collapsed altogether before the severe onslaught of Wellesley.

But it is not the editor's intention to deal exhaustively with these topics in this introductory note. The purpose of historical research will be best served by leaving the readers themselves to study the papers carefully and draw their own conclusions.

G. S. SARDESAI.

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### *Chronology of important events.*

<b>1786</b>	March 3	Malet arrives at Poona
	, 7	Malet has his first audience with the Peshwa.
	April 5	Tipu sustained a reverse at Kittur
	,, 20	Malet left Poona for the Maratha Camp
	May 19	Malet visits Nana Fadnis near Badami.
	,, 20	Marathas capture Badami
	June 6	Malet returns to Poona
	,,	Tipu captures Adoni
	August 17	Haripant captures Bahadur-binda
	September 1	Tipu inflicts a surprise attack upon Marathas near Savnur
	,, 12	Cornwallis arrives at Madras
	November 11	Cornwallis communicates his decision declining to render British help to Marathas
<b>1787</b>	January 12	Marathas captured Kopal
	,, 13	Marathas lost Bahadurbinda
	February 26	Peace was concluded between Marathas and Tipu near Gajendragad
	March 26	Malet witnessed Maratha ladies going Sati near his tent at Poona
	December 30	Malet pays a short visit to Bombay
<b>1788</b>	March 26	Triple alliance first proposed by Cornwallis
	March-April	Peshwa visits his grandmother at Gangapur.
	June	Forster appointed Resident at Nagpur
	August 3	Gopikabai, Peshwa's grandmother, died
<b>1789</b>	May 5	Guntur Sarkar was transferred to the British.
	May-June	Raghujii Bhosle visited Poona
	June 29	Nana Fadnis proposed to retire to Benares
<b>1790</b>	January	Malet visits Bombay for a few days
	June 1	Treaty of alliance ratified at Poona
	September 22	Parshuram Bhau invests Dharwar
<b>1791</b>	January 5	Forster died at Nagpur
	,, 29	Cornwallis assumed command against Tipu
	March	Mr Yvon died, reported on 2nd April
	,, 12	Col Frederick died of wounds at Dharwar
	,, 21	Cornwallis captured Bangalore
	April 6	Dharwar was captured by Allies
	May 14	Cornwallis sustains a repulse before Seringapatam
	,, 28	Cornwallis and Haripant meet at Moti Talav
	August 31	Ghasiram, Police Head of Poona, is stoned to death
	Oct -Nov.	Peshwa visits War, Malet accompanies.
<b>1792</b>	February 2	Allied armies arrive before Seringapatam
	,, 11	Tipu sues for peace
<b>1792</b>	February 24	Mahadji Sindia leaves Ujjain for South.
	,, 25	Peace terms agreed upon by the allies
	April 10	Allied armies part for their destinations
	June 12	Mahadji arrives at Poona
	,, 22	Ceremony of Firmanbady took place at Poona
	September 20	Battle of Lakheri, Tukoji Hoikar worsted by Sindia

- 1793** January 31 . Peshwa's wife Ramabai died.  
 March 21 Sachiv Shankarajipant was sheltered by Mahadji.  
 April 16 Nizam Ali moved to Bidar.  
 May 9 . Malet goes to Bombay and returns on 9th June.  
 August 22 . Pondicherry captured by the English.  
 October 28 Cornwallis sailed for England, Sir John Shore G. G.  
**1794** January 14 Death of Darajali, Nizam Ali's nephew.  
 January 26 . Capt Kennaway retired and Capt William Kirkpatrick  
 succeeded him at the Hyderabad Residency  
 February 12 . Mahadji Sindia died at Poona.  
 March 3 Accession of Daulatrao Sindia.  
 „ 12 Anandibai wife of Raghunathrao died.  
 April . Ladoji Sitole, Mahadji's son-in-law, died  
 „ Tipu's sons taken as hostages were released  
 May 11 Malet and Artist Wales left Poona on a visit to the Ellora  
 Caves and returned on June 30 Malet continued to suffer  
 from Malaria for two months.  
 June 20 . Haripant Phadke died  
 July 8 Crusoe retired and Findlay became Surgeon to the Poona  
 Residency  
**1795** January 1 . Jonathan Duncan assumed the Government of Bombay.  
 June 4 .. Malet left Poona for Bombay.  
 August 13 . Ahalyabai Holkar died.  
 September . Trincomali was acquired by the British.  
 October 27 . Peshwa Sawai Madhavrao died.  
 November 4 . Malet returned to Poona.  
 „ 22 Alijah, the Nizam's son, poisoned himself.  
**1796** January 4 . Jivaji Bakshi died  
 March 21 . Nana Fadnis left Poona for Satara  
 April 22 Nana went to Menavli from Satara.  
 May 8 Bajirao was kept under arrest by Daulatrao Sindia.  
 „ 25 .. Chimmaji was installed as Peshwa  
 June 4 Malet left for Bombay.  
 „ 4 Nana left Menavli and went to Mahad.  
 „ 5 . Azim-ul-Omra was set free from confinement at Poona.  
 November 10 Nana left Mahad for Poona  
 „ 25 Nana and Raghujii Bhosle reached Poona.  
 December 5 . Bajirao was invested with Peshwaship  
 „ 7 Malet returned to Poona  
**1797** February 22 .. Malet left Poona finally.  
**1798** February 13 . Malet sailed for England  
 April 4 Raghoba's jewels were returned.  
**1815** January 24 .. Malet died





NANA FADNIS  
BORN 12 FEBRUARY 1742 – DIED 13 MARCH 1800

# MALET'S CORRESPONDENCE—POONA AFFAIRS

## SECTION I

### *Maratha War with Tipu*

**No. 1**—Malet arrives at Poona and begins to act as British representative at the Peshwa's Court.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—J. ALEX. DAVIDSON, GOVERNOR & CO., MADRAS.

*Poona, 8th March 1786.*

Pursuant to the orders of the Honourable the Governor General and Co., I have the honour to acquaint you that I arrived here the 3rd instant vested with powers and instructions to reside and act as the representative of the Superior Council at the Court of the Peshwa and on the 7th instant had my first audience of the Peshwa and met with an honourable reception.

I shall agreeable to the directions I have received, do myself the honour of transmitting to you such information as may in any shape regard the Company's interest at your Presidency, and have to request you will favour me with any intelligence the knowledge of which you may judge at all conducive to the effectual discharge of the duties of my office. You will have learnt that Nana Furnaveese and Nizam Ally Khan have had a meeting at Aedgheer\* near the Kistna I do not hear that Tipoo has yet moved from Seringapattun. I have delivered this letter to a person named Ragonath Pundit who has introduced himself to me as the agent of your Hon'ble President and undertaken to forward any advice I may have to your address.

I have the honour to be,

(Signed) CHARLES MALET.

\* Yadgiri, G. I P. Rly.



**No. 2.**—Malet describes his first visit to the Peshwa and the discussion that took place on the subject of the British help solicited by the Marathas against Tipu.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—McPHERSON, GOVERNOR GENERAL, CALCUTTA.

*Poona, 8th March 1786.*

I had the honour to address you under the 8th ult. from Bombay. The 10th I received a letter with several enclosures from the honourable the Governor and the Council of Bombay. Copy of the letter with my reply are enclosed. The Surat papers are too voluminous to be transcribed.

The 12th of the same month I embarked on board the Governor's yacht for Panwell under a salute of 11 guns which the President thought proper to compliment me with as your representative. On the 13th I arrived at Panwell, but from the very depopulated state of the country and the difficulty of transporting anything but on men's shoulders, my arrival at this place was protracted until the 3rd instant. I was to have been met at a distance of five miles from the city by Jannoba Dada, Governor of Poona and its environs, and Emrut Rao,<sup>1</sup> the Minister residing with the Peshwa, being the two principal persons remaining here. The latter was prevented by being obliged to attend the funeral obsequies of one of Nana's near relations who died that day. The ceremony of my first reception therefore was performed by Jannoba accompanied by his son, Behro Pundit, Nanna's confidential minister, and several other Brahmuns and Mahrattas of distinction. After the meeting I proceeded to a place where I had ordered my tents to be pitched a little to the south-west of the city, preferring that to going to the house prepared for me in town as more convenient for proceeding to the army at the head of which the Minister is now, about 150 *cos*† hence.

On the 4th instant I received a visit from Behro Punt, the person through whom my business with the Darbar is to be transacted, who assured me in strong terms of the Peshwa's and Nana's great satisfaction at my arrival, to hasten which letters had been written both to Sindia and to Calcutta. Having settled with him the etiquette of my first audience with the Peshwa and the present to be made, I delivered to him the letter of introduction which Mr Anderson had sent me from Mahadjee Sindia, and begged that he would cause them to be presented, which he undertook.

From him I learned that after the meeting of Nizam Ally Khan and Nanna Furnaveese near Aedgheer a large body of Mahratta forces under Gunnu‡ Pundit had been detached towards Quittor§ and that Nanna

<sup>1</sup>Amrut Vishwanath Pethé, grandson of Trimbakrao Mama. His death is mentioned in a subsequent letter dated 8th December 1786.

†One *cos* equals two miles.

‡Ganeshpant Behere.

§Kittur, District Dharwar.

himself proposed advancing to the banks of the Kistna, that the joint forces of the Peshwa and Nizam composed a very large army, but that no news had arrived of Tipoo Sultan's marching from Seringputan, where by the last accounts, he was busied in great warlike preparations

At the close of our conference Behro Pundit acquainted me with that Emrut Rao was desirous of paying me a visit which I begged leave to decline till after my audience of His Highness the Peshwa I then made him a present and he took his leave

On the 6th I received a visit from a man named Raghunath Punt who introduced himself as an agent sent here by Lord MacCarty and since continued in that capacity by the present Governor of Madras Having offered his services to forward any letter I might have for that presidency, I have, agreeable to your directions addressed that Government and enclose a copy for your notice.

On the 7th I proceeded with the gentlemen of my party to the Peshwa's palace where we arrived about five o'clock in the afternoon, the guards both horse and foot, being drawn out and complimenting us as we passed Behro Pundit who was in waiting to receive us conducted us to the audience chamber, where we were received standing by Emrut Rao and a great number of military and civil officers. After standing a few seconds the Peshwa entered I paid my respects to him We then embraced, after which he seated himself on the *musnud* prepared for him Myself and the gentlemen with [me] took our seats close to him on the carpet. After the usual compliments and enquiries after his health, I presented the letter from the Governor General, accompanying it with the compliments and professions of friendship with which I was charged by him on his own and the Company's part, all [of] which he observed with great attention, and in return made particular enquiries after the Governor General's health and expressed much satisfaction at my arrival. At the close of this conversation, I presented my credentials, the meaning of which he asked, and on being informed by his Minister Emrut Rao, desired that they might be read, which they were and explained accordingly. These requisite forms being ended, I ordered the presents to be brought forward and presented to him in the name of the Governor General, amongst which he seemed most pleased with the phaeton and pair of horses. After this we took our leave.

The Peshwa Mhadarao Sawae is a boy of about 11 years old, of a slender habit and small for his age, his countenance though neither handsome nor strongly marked, is sensible and acute which corresponded with his character.

This day I was again visited by Behro Pundit who seemed extremely desirous of collecting the extent of my commission and the intentions of my superiors relative to the important point now depending on the Peshwa's application for assistance, and urged on various pleas drawn

from our supposed resentment of the injuries received from Tippoo Sultan and from political topics the propriety and necessity of compliance on our part. He mentioned the offer of the French, drew some merit from the rejection of them, and insisted much on the evil consequences that would follow should they join the opposite party, in which event, should they be induced to accommodate matters with Tippoo, his freedom from apprehension on this side would be followed with hostilities to us, his inclination to which was evinced by his daily conduct. In reply to all this, as I did not think proper to come to any explanation, even so far as my instructions permit, with any person but the Minister himself, I first of all begged to know the real extent of the Peshwa's intentions in the present war, whether to crush or merely to bring Tippoo to such terms as the policy might dictate. In either case, I begged to know the nature of the assistance required from us, the terms and the manner in which it would be required to act, and the security that would be given against circumstances of pacification, defeat, and so forth. On these points he was unprepared to answer me and I then acquainted him that it was a useless task to enter into a discussion and explanation of points without the requisite powers to come to any conclusion, but that for his satisfaction I would inform him that the friendship of the Peshwa and that adherence to the present treaty was one of the primary objects of the present Governor General and Council, that peace with all our neighbours was another, that we wished no acquisitions of territory, but that should Tippoo, as he hinted, on finding himself free from apprehension on this side, machinate evil against us, he would find us ready to receive him, and that on all future occasions as events should render expedient, the Peshwa would find the English the best allies in peace and the most useful friends in war.

Though our conversation on this subject was more circumstantial, the above comprises the substance. Behro Pandit finding that nothing conclusive was to be collected, told me he had written Nanna about my proceeding to the army and would let me know his answer immediately on receipt.

On my arrival at this place I found that Balloo Meah and his brother, sons of the late Siddee of Gingera, had arrived a few days before me. After the death of their father they were obliged to fly from Gingera the fort being in possession of Siddee Jouhr, the servant and son-in-law of their father, who demanded the youngest brother and promised to put him in the government. On their flight they first went to Bancot where being refused admission by Mr Farmer they entered Mahrattoe districts and are now come here by order of government.

The unavoidable expenses of presents, etc, have again forced me to draw on your Honourable Board for 15,000 rupees to which amount I have granted bills under this date, to Dayaram Ahassaram in favour of Hurkisandas Dwarkadas.

Permit me to request your orders relative to my interference in the Surat business at the instance of the Bombay Government and your reply to the points contained in my last, relative to my allowances and those of the gentlemen with me and to assure you that I am etc.

**No. 3**—Malet minutely describes several features of the political situation at Poona, with the object of promoting the prestige and influence of the British power in India. He proceeds to Badami to meet Nana Fadnis in Camp.

FROM—CHARLES WARRE MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

*Poona, 5th April 1786.*

I had the honour to address under the 8th ultimo from Mhadjee Scindia's Camp duplicate of which was forwarded under the 12th *via* Bombay. The same day I received a letter from Mr. Colebroke, Persian Interpreter, inclosing for my information copies of letters from the Governor General to the Peshwa and his minister written the 6th of January. The 13th I was visited by Behro Pandit who acquainted me that he had received answers from Nana to his letters mentioning my arrival at Poona but that they differed widely from those he had hitherto received relative to my proceeding to the army and by no means encouraged him to advise me to proceed. Shortly after this, reports arose that both Nana and Nizam Ali Khan meant to return to their respective capitals and leave the allied army under the command of the Nizam's son and Hurry Punt to canton on the enemy's frontier. These reports accompanied with rumours that the disputes of the contending powers would be amicably settled, the probability of which was strengthened by intelligence of instructions from the Portuguese at Goa to their agent here to watch over and support their interests in the approaching pacification.

On the 19th I was again visited by Behro Punt who presented me a letter from the Minister in reply to one from me despatched to him on my arrival with advice thereof. It contained a recapitulation of my letter in which was mentioned my intention of proceeding to the army with polite congratulations and expressions of my satisfaction on my arrival, concluding with a reference to Behro Punt for particulars, to whom I accordingly applied particularly on the subject of proceeding to the army. He replied that he was ignorant of Nanna's real intentions about staying in the army or returning to Poona. He could not venture positively to say which would be most agreeable to him, but from the different style of his late and former letters and the interminate manner in which he has lately written, he advised me to write to him for an explicit declaration of his wishes, which I immediately did.

In my conversations with this Minister he was particularly inquisitive about the number of our forces in India, their pay, and about the state

of the Portuguese and French both in Europe and India, and observed that they had a greater proportion of Europeans in India than the English. He likewise made particular enquiries about the Island of Salsette and seemed solicitous to discover whether an exchange for any other districts for any pecuniary consideration would be agreeable to the company. He conversed a good deal about the Nabob of Surat's dispute with the Choutea and seemed partial to the latter, and at last introduced the subject of the present state of the government, of the strong fort of Gingera, on which subject I have addressed the Governor and Co of Bombay as per copy enclosed.<sup>b</sup>

On the 21st I received intelligence that the combined forces had marched from Aedgheer to support Cupput-sangam† on the banks of the Kistna 30 cos south-west of Aedgheer, that Gunnes Pundit and Holkar continued with a large body near Kittore at which place Tippoo had large forces commanded by Burhan-al-Deen, his main forces on that frontier under Cumer-al-Deen being stationed at Nulsoond but that no hostilities had yet happened.

In letters received here on the 24th ult from the army it was written that a very large body of forces was advanced from Shihangpattum to Chitadroog and that Tippoo Sultan was following with the rear of the army. At the same time reports were circulated that some interruption had taken place in the cordiality between Nizam Ally Khan and Nana Furnaveese which I have some reason to think are not without foundation.

On the 30th instant I received a letter from the Nabob of Surat in which he expresses his apprehension that his dispute with the Peshwa's Choutea is not at an end, though Mr. Ramsay the chief has accommodated the matters for the present. I have now the honour to enclose an extract from the Nabob's letter to me and copies of such of the Surat papers furnished to me by the Bombay Board, as I think necessary for your notice.

From the Nabob of Surat's age and infirmities and from the intriguing spirit of some of his relations I should not be surprised if this Choutea's conduct originated in their suggestions and the hope however distant of introducing their own pretensions on the Nabob's death through the Peshwa's influence. On this ground and the general evil tendency of the prevalence of the Mahratta power in the city of Surat, all innovations should be carefully watched and, might I venture an opinion, it would be that the Nabob's Military should be put on regular and respectable footing. I shall take the liberty of addressing the Bombay Board on this subject.

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\* This paragraph was sent in cipher

† Kapat sangam is the name of the confluence of the Kishna with the Bhima.

On the 1st instant I was honoured with your commands of the 14th of February enclosing letters for the Peshwa and his minister by express *cosids* from Mr. Anderson, and agreeable to your directions of delivering them as soon as received, I immediately sent for Behio Pundit to come to me the next day, but being employed in some religious ceremonies he could not attend me till yesterday, when I delivered him the letter for the Peshwa enclosed in one from myself to be forwarded with all speed to the minister. The letter addressed to Nana Farnaveese I shall deliver in person.

I was a good deal surprised at finding the persuasion of Tippoo Sultan's death fully established in your letter, of which we have not the smallest notice here, nor from the inactivity of the Mahatta and Nizam's forces do I conceive they can be acquainted with that event. This uncertainty on a point of so much importance might have induced me to argue the detention of the Governor General's letter until I have received further information regarding it either from you or any other quarters, had not your orders for the delivery been so clear and unequivocal and had I not (?) from an attentive perusal of the Governor General's letters that the same assurances of assistance had been made to the Vakeels of the three Mahratta chieftains at Calcutta on the 25th of December two months previous to the date of the present letters. These circumstances added to the still more cogent one of Chummun\* Lall's being entrusted with copies of the letters in question the delivery of which could not at all events be prevented, determined me without further hesitation to comply with your directions.

But as I conceive the season is now too far advanced for this government to take advantage of your proffered aid before the rains and as I perceive by the Governor General's letters to the Peshwa and minister a reference is made to me for the settlement of more particular agreements which I conceive to relate to the promised assistance, permit me to request you will in the interim favour me with specific instructions relative to the number, pay and line of subordination after entering the Mahratta territories of the troops to be furnished and to the mode of requisition from Bombay. In the meantime should this government make any applications to me, I shall endeavour to amuse them till receipt of your orders by demanding specific explanations of their intentions relative to Tippoo, of the services expected from the troops, of the return to be made for these services, on any misunderstanding occasioned thereby between Tippoo and the Company, on the mode of payment and security for the same and such other arguments as may occur in the course of discussion.

Monsieur Montigne, the French Resident, remains in Poona, is little spoken of, and either has little to do with the darbar or is quietly waiting the issue of former negotiations and of those despatches which while I was at Calcutta were reported to have been sent express to Europe.

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\* Son of Sevak Ram, the Peshwa's Vakil at Calcutta

Should it suit the French politics to join this Government, I conceive it will be almost without reserve as far as relating to the operation of their troops ; if so, their alliance will be more acceptable to the Mahiattas than ours. As I conceive their present object in wishing the aid of a European ally must be with a view to the reduction of the enemy strongholds, which object can only be varied by the ascendancy of Tippoo and his invasion of their country, and in that predicament only do I imagine the offer of assistance in its present form would be acceptable. I shall not however suffer such an idea to derogate from its merit in the opinion of this Government but place it in its proper light as a proof of their most undoubted friendship and regard.

I shall be particularly attentive to remove all jealousy of your sending an agent to Seringapatam and, knowing your anxiety, to preserve the Company free from broils without subjecting it to the danger of future evils by too great solicitude to avoid the present, I shall most studiously and industriously promote the execution of your wishes and, on all occasions, carefully regulate my conduct by the spirit of your instructions.

The absence of the Minister from here and the very circumscribed authority of those to whom he has delegated the management of affairs, naturally causes a timidity and circumspection on their part towards me, which, added to the fresh and lively impression of long and repeated hostilities, must for some time prove detrimental to our cordial and confidential intercourse and throw some difficulties in the way of collecting good and authentic intelligence. But I make no doubt that the Governor General's last letter will remove all remaining doubt of the sincerity of the present good understanding and renew in Nanna Furnaveese that anxiety to see me which he has till lately expressed.

On the 2nd instant I received an answer from the Governor and Co. from Bombay to my letter of the 22nd ult. relative to the Gingera affairs copy of which I have the honour to enclose. By a future opportunity I shall send such of the papers therein mentioned as may be requisite for your information and in the meantime pay due attention to the wishes of the Bombay Board

I have this moment, the 3rd, received a letter from Nana Furnaveese in answer to mine of the 19th ult. in which he desires to see me in camp. This letter was brought to me by Behro Pandit who informed me that the allied army with the Nizam and Nanna Furnaveese had crossed the Kistna on the 23rd ult. at Kaput Sangam about a hundred cos hence. That the report still prevailed of the van of Tippoo's army being advanced toward Chital Droog and that he was bringing up the rear in person, that Holcar and Gannes Pundit commanded a detachment of about 20,000 horse about 50 cos from the main army, but that no action had yet happened ; that the crossing the Kistna and entering the enemy's

territory had a more decided hostile appearance than had hitherto taken place, but that the barrenness of that country at this season of the year would prevent any great progress being made.

I have hopes in a few days to be honored with your answer to my address of February from Bombay and have to request that you will (either through Benares or thro' Mr Anderson) order your future letters for me to be directed to Nusseer-ul-Deen Hassan son of Noor-ul-Deen Hussan Khan, at Poona whence there is a dawk to the army, but if you have any correspondence with Hyderabad that probably will be the best channel.

I beg leave, Hon'ble Sir and Gentlemen, on the eve of my departure from this place to solicit your attention to the importance of the crisis, to the eminence of the personages to whom I am going, and to the dignity of my character as your representative which will necessarily involve me in great and unavoidable expense, since it is incumbent upon me to pay and receive visits to and from Nizam Ally Khan, Moodaji Bhosle, Hurry Punt Furkia and Tukaji Holcar and on those occasions in an assembly of all the princess of the Deccan to support that high dignity of rank which you now hold amidst the powers of Hindustan.

As I suppose Mr Meer Cummur-al-Deen will have reached the Nizam's Camp before me I have to request you will direct him to put himself under my orders and to act in concert with me as shall in your opinion be most conducive to the public good. The grand material of a public minister is that importance which arises from the confidence of his employers, and be assured that such as you may think proper to repose in me shall be repaid with industry and fidelity.

On my application to the shroff here appointed by Nuggindas to supply me with money he made a difficulty of advancing any from bills on Calcutta. I have therefore to request that you will procure me a particular order from Doakadas in Calcutta to his agent Nuggindas at Surat to advance me such sums as I may want which will prevent all future objections.

Under the 2nd I prevailed on Dyaram Ahssaram notwithstanding his scruples to advance me rupees 10,300 for bills on your hon'ble Board on the terms of the last, which I have to request you will duly honor

I expect to leave this in about 8 days and to be twenty-five on my journey to the army. On my arrival there I shall anxiously expect your commands in reply to this and my former addresses and explicit instructions relative to the points mentioned in the 10th paragraph of this address.

I have the honour to be, etc.



No. 4—Malet reports to the Governor General an action fought near Kittur between the Marathas and Tipu

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 5th April 1786*

In enclosing the accompanying packet I have received authentic intelligence that about 12,000 of the troops of Holcar, Ganesh Punt and the Bhosle lately attacked the troops of Tippoo in the neighbourhood of Kittore and after taking a flag elephant and about 100 horses were retreating but being followed by Tippoo's troops a smart action ensued in which the latter lost two chieftains of consequence. They moved their elephant and about 80 horses. After this the Marattas joined their leaders at their Camp and Tippoo's troops moved towards Dhairwar.

No. 5—Malet describes his journey to the Maratha Camp at Badami.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL & COUNCIL.

*Pisso-Saoulie, 2nd May 1786.*

On the 20th ult I left Poona and on the 27th received a letter from the Governor of Bombay copy of which is enclosed. On the 30th having advanced as expeditiously as the nature of my conveyances would permit, to Rahmatpur about 80 miles from Poona, I received a letter from Nana Funnaveese enclosing one from Peshva to Governor Boddam copies of both [of] which and also of my address to the Bombay Board on the occasion, I have now the honour to enclose.

Behro Pundit on learning the limited terms in which the offer of assistance is to be understood, appeared to be extremely surprised and is now as desirous of protracting my journey as he was before urgent to hasten it. I have desired him to undeceive Nanna and explain to him in the least disagreeable manner the terms on which the proffered aid is to be granted. I have also this day replied to his letter in general terms copy of which I have the honor to enclose.

About fifteen days ago Nana Funnaveese was very much indisposed in the army and had resolved to set out for Poona, but was prevented by the earnest solicitations of the Nizam, Bhosle etc. Shortly after, Nizam Ally Khan himself took his leave of Nanna and about the 25th ultimo marched toward Hyderabad, leaving 15,000 horse and 20,000 foot under the command of Tohowar Jung. I can collect no authentic intelligence that this measure was disagreeable to Nanna, yet am I inclined to think that it had not his entire approval. The plundering parties of the allied army have overrun large tracts of country and have established their tannas

in many of the districts that formerly belonged to the Mahrattas, but no place of strength has yet been subdued, nor from what I can learn does Nanna seem inclined to attack Buddammee. I have not lately heard anything of Tippoo Sultan; if he is living, his inactivity appears as extraordinary as the concealment of his death if dead.

**No. 6**—Malet asks the Governor of Bombay to attend to the Commercial affairs which he had left incomplete when he came to Poona.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—RAWSON HART BODDAM, PRESIDENT & GOVERNOR, BOMBAY.

*Maitha Camp near Buddamme, 22nd May 1786.*

Enclosed I have the honour to send you extract of a letter received the 20th Instant from the Secretary to the Hon'ble the Governor General and Council. As the posts I held at Bombay were immediately under you, I have to request you will favour me with your testimony on the points in question.

As you are also acquainted with the very extensive commercial concerns into which I had just entered before my leaving Bombay, and the great confusion into which those concerns were thrown and are still involved, by my absence, your adding a line on that subject will be an additional obligation conferred on

Your most obedient servant.

**No. 7**—Malet reports to the Governor General the capture of Badami by the Marathas and their future plans.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp near Badami, 22nd May 1786.*

My last respects were dated the 7th instant via Benares duplicate of which was sent the same day via Bombay. On the 19th instant I arrived here and had a public meeting with Nanna Furnaveese in which that Minister studied by every attention to show his respect to my Honourable employers. Early in the morning of the next day, the town of Buddammee, though commanded by two very strong forts and though the works of the town which also were very strong of themselves and connected with the forts, were not breached, was carried by general assault. The slaughter was great on either side. The Mahrattas reckon their loss at 1,600 men. In consequence of an invitation from the Minister I attended him at the post he took at some distance from the batteries on a spot that

commanded the scene of action, where he received reports of the progress of the different assaults and issued the requisite orders. His conduct during this very severe conflict was collected and serene, and though the whole of the operations bore the appearance of utter confusion, his reports from the different corps and of their conduct were prompt and regular. Soon after the Mahrattas had got entire possession of the town and a small citadel within, which also made resistance, overtures of capitulation were made by the Killadar for the fort whose supplies of water, it seems, were principally from a large tank in the town. His proposals were rejected and preparations were made for the renewing of the attack, which had the desired effect, and the next day the forts were surrendered at the discretion of Nanna with the single assurance of personal security and granting their swords to five of the principal officers. The garrison by the best accounts consisted of 600 regulars and 1,200 mercenaries with matchlocks and a great number of irregulars also with matchlocks from the environs. The Killadar's name is Hasan Ali Khan.

On the 21st I received a letter from the Bombay Board in reply to mine of the 2nd instant copy of which is enclosed agreeable to which I shall make the required communications to Nanna.

Holcar remains detached with a very large body near Kittore which place has not [fallen] nor has it been very ferociously attacked. His parties have advanced as far as the Tung Budra and caused great desolation in the enemy's country. I shall do myself the honour of writing you more fully in a few days, this being meant to communicate as speedily as possible the news of the important conquest of Badami.

It is now pretty confidently said that the Mahratta armies will winter on this side the Kristna, but there is some difficulty in settling the continuance of the great chieftains such as Moodajec Bhosla, Parsaram Bhau, Hurry Punt Tattia, Holcar etc. This difficult and delicate business may probably detain Nanna Furnaveese some time longer in the army notwithstanding his great desire to return to Poona. On the 11th instant I addressed the Hon'ble the Governor and Co. of Madras copy of which is enclosed.

I can collect no authentic intelligence of Tippoo's motions, nor of where he is, though there are reports of his being advanced to within 80 cos. From the Bombay letters now enclosed you will be able to judge of the expediency of sending me the requisite instructions for concluding the negotiations relative to the Bombay detachment, should this Government persevere in their requisition of it on the terms prescribed.

Under this date I have advised the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay of the conquest of Baddammee and sent this open thro' Mr. Anderson for his information. I have likewise through him congratulated Scindia on this event.

No. 8—Malet informs Governor of Fort St. George of his return journey to Poona.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, FORT ST. GEORGE

*Camp near Badami, 24th March 1786.*

I have the honour to enclose duplicate of my last address under date the 22nd instant

Nanna Furnavese will set off on his return to Poona to-morrow, leaving Hurry Punt Furkia in command of the army. I shall attend the Minister ; but have recommended to your Vackeel Ragonath Punt who accompanied me hither to remain with the army for the purpose of keeping your Honourable Board regularly advised of the occurrences in this quarter for which end I shall introduce and recommend him to Hurry Punt Furkia.

No. 9—In this long and detailed letter Malet deals with several topics and gives graphic descriptions of the siege and capture of Badami by the Marathas, and of the visits he paid to Nana, Haripant and other notables.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Pussu Saovlee, 2nd June 1786.*

Duplicate of my last address under the 22nd ult. I have now the honour to enclose and agreeable to my promise therein contained I shall now trouble you with such particulars both before and after the fall of Baddamne as the little leisure of my present long marches will admit.

I have already advised you of Vissajee Bapoo a chieftain of consequence, being sent 13 miles from the army to meet and conduct me thither. On my arrival near the limits of the camp I halted in a small tent pitched for the purpose till I was advised that Nanna accompanied by Harry Punt and Badjee Pant Enna Bucshy had left his tents to come to meet me. My retinue therefore being arranged I immediately proceeded and about half a mile from my tent in full view of the town and batteries I met Nanna's cavalcade. Our people then being drawn upon either side, we alighted from our palanquins at some distance, and, as had been settled, the gentlemen of my party first advanced and embraced, after which I went through the same ceremony. We continued together about 2 minutes standing in which time Nanna very particularly enquired after your health etc, and expressed his satisfaction at my mission. He then invited me to his tent and, telling me he would show me the way, went to his palanquin. Harry Punt desired I would excuse his non-attendance, his presence being necessary at the batteries whither he immediately went, and I with the gentlemen of my party followed Nanna to his tent about 3 miles off. On

entering Nanna's tent he rose and advanced to meet me and then taking his place, seated me on his right hand with the gentlemen of my party. We were scarce seated when he again repeated his enquiries after your health expressing in high terms his respect for your character and wisdom, under the influence of which he doubted not our newly reestablished friendship would grow into perfect and indissoluble cordiality. After some further general conversation in which his satisfaction at my arrival and the anxious expectation he had long entertained of it, were not omitted, I begged leave to retire, when he ordered the usual honorary present of a horse, a sirpech and Jiga and six pieces of cloth to be made, and I proceeded to my tent where I arrived at 3 p.m. after a very fatiguing day.

Nanna Funnaveese Ballajee Junardhun who in the most perilous times supported almost singly the Mahratta empire during the distracted regency of an infant Peshwa, seems about 50 years old, of a middling size and stature, and of a good intelligent though not striking countenance, with an address which though not remarkably courtly, is perhaps more engaging as carrying with it much of candour, benevolence and sincerity.

Harry Punt Tattia is about the same height as Nana but rather of a larger make and of a fairer complexion which by no means makes up for that want of candid intelligence that illumines Nanna's countenance. Harry Punt's is more strongly marked with traits of reserve and design.

In the evening of this day I received intelligence that a person had been sent to Tippoo by the Bouncello with Nanna's knowledge and assent with some friendly admonition as from Bouncello privately, that Tippoo had ordered all his military apparatus to be shown to this person and that he was now returned to the army with two persons from Tippoo and letters for this Bouncello, but that they gave no prospect of an end to the war. I also received intelligence that the Nizam had left the army in some disgust on pretence that promises which had been made him by the Mahratta ministers of yielding to him Bijapur with some other concessions were not complied with, while Nanna absolutely disavowed having ever granted powers for such promises and was still more displeased with the Nizam for retreating at so critical a juncture.

At 2 o'clock a.m. of the 20th I received a message from Nana that he had ordered a general assault on the town at daybreak, and should be glad of my company on that occasion. Thinking it would not be prudent to take my guard since the inactivity of such a body at such a time would have an awkward appearance and to act might be seriously reprehensible, I proceeded with the gentlemen of my party and my usual attendants. The assault commenced with a continued discharge of rockets and artillery, which was answered from the two forts on the hills and had a very magnificent effect in the grey of the morning. Under the cover of their fire the Mahrattas who were advanced close to the glacis, soon got

possession of parts of the lower town or Peynt, though the combat was very warmly maintained by some troops that took post under one of the forts and others in a small citadel in the middle of the town, but these were also soon vanquished by the valour and perseverance of the assailants. But the two forts being perfectly secure from their efforts kept up a warm fire both of cannon and musketry. Not being able to observe so narrowly as I wished from Nanna's post, I begged his permission to advance, which he granted with an injunction to avoid danger. Accordingly I made a range of the batteries still exchanging shot with the fort and proceeded to the right extremity of the Peynt fortifications where they join the mountain. This was the place of greatest safety and was the quarter attacked by the Nizam's troops under Thowar, but tho' breached and tho' the easiest of access was not entered until after the attack had succeeded in front. Having from here examined the ditch, the town within, and the works both of the town and of the fort above, whence the fire was still kept up, we retired and taking a closer observation of the Mahratta's approaches which we found to be very shallow hollows with very slender cover, returned to Nanna whom we found employed in receiving the reports of the action and the situation of the different leaders and their troops, giving the necessary orders and sending water and palanquins for the relief and accommodation of the wounded. In this time many prisoners were brought in who agreed that the forts were badly provided with water. Seeing business increase fast upon Nanna we took our leave and about 9 o'clock returned to our tents. The fire of the forts soon slackened and in the afternoon Behro Punt advised me that the Killadar had offered to capitulate on certain conditions which Nanna, who was much chagrined by the losses he had sustained, rejected, insisting on their surrendering at discretion.

On the 21st the two forts surrendered at discretion on the single assurance of personal safety. Early on the morning of that day we went to view the town of Buddammee and the quarter that had been stormed, where we found the defences to consist of a very good wall flanked by towers and covered by a dry ditch, a covered way, and a good glacis. In some places the upper part of the wall and the embrasures were a good deal battered, but the body of the wall was very little affected except on the right side of the town where it joins the rock. In this flank there were two breaches but this being the quarter of the Nizam's troops the impression was not made there. Buddammee is not large but fills the hollow between two hills. In its front is an extensive fine plain, in its rear very rugged hilly ground, on the right and the left are high rocky hills on which stand two strong forts which effectually command the town, the interval between being scarce a musket shot over. The town is connected with these two forts both in front and rear by strong works, immediately within the works in the rear is a very fine tank whence the garrisons of the forts above drew their principal supplies of water, the

deprival of which is said to be the cause of their immediate surrender. The garrison of the town and the forts is said to have consisted of about 700 regulars 1200 matchlock mercenaries, and a number of matchlocks from the environs, in all over 3000 men. Upwards of 400 of these are said to have fallen in the storm and 1500 to 2000 of the Mahrattas.

In the evening of this day I received a visit from Zainal-Abadin Khan who acquainted me that he is a relation of Mahomed Reza Khan of Murshidabad, that he had left Bengal in consequence of some disputes with Mahomed Reza Khan, and a connexion that he had formed with the French, that he had seen the folly of his conduct, and, should permission be obtained for his return and the resumption of his property, he would gladly endeavour to merit it by any service in his power to perform to the Company. This person who appears to be possessed of considerable abilities is now in the service and in some degree in the confidence of Nanna and I have already found him possessed of and willing to communicate intelligence of some consequence. Permit me to request your orders on this point

This day also I received a letter from the Governor of Bombay in reply to mine of the 2nd, but finding it impracticable to communicate this intelligence personally to Nanna during the hurry and multiplicity of his present business, advised Behro Punt of its receipt and contents with directions to make them known to Nana who had hitherto been prevented from returning my visit by the necessity he was under of visiting the wounded, an observance strictly attended to by these people.

On the 24th I received a message from Nanna that having some little respite from the hurry of business, he and Harry Punt meant to visit me about 11 o'clock. They accordingly came about that time when, I accompanied by the gentlemen of my party, received them with every possible mark of attention. Our conversation as usual on these occasions was general and complimentary during which Nana in the politest manner again introduced his enquiries after you and observed that he drew the happiest omen of my embassy from the brilliant advantage to the Peshwa army with which it had commenced. At this meeting I presented Nanna your letter for him on the subject of my appointment, the offer of aid, and the Rodney's detention, and made him and Harry Punt the following presents in your name, viz., to Nanna a horse, a large musical clock, an elegant filigree looking-glass, a filigree rosewater bottle and stand, ditto a casket, a pair of shawls, two pairs kincobs (brocaded silk), 2 pairs muslin, and shawl [and] turban; to Harry Punt one sirpech (headdress), one pair shawls, two pairs kincobs, two pairs muslin, one casket, to Behro Punt one pair shawls, two pairs doreas, one pair kincobs; with turbans to several Mahratta chieftains that accompanied them. After these ceremonies were over, they took their leave, Nanna having directed

Behro Punt to acquaint me that he meant to march in the morning towards Poona, it was settled that I should return Hurry Punt's visit that afternoon, and afterwards have a private audience on the subject of the aid as applied for by them and offered by you.

Previous to my meeting with Nanna I had sounded his inclinations on my visiting the Bouncello which he pointedly discouraged, desirous however of showing my respect for that chieftain from his former connection with the Company, I sent a respectable person to him with my respects and to acquaint him that from the motives above mentioned I had been desirous of paying my respects to him, but that from the time of my arrival till the day before yesterday he had been in his batteries on the other side (of) the town and for these two days since his return I had been in momentary expectation of a visit from Nanna by which I was prevented waiting on him. At the same time I congratulated him on the conquest of Buddammee

About five in the evening I with the gentlemen of my party returned Hurry Punt's visit, and from thence I went with Mr. Euthoff to the Minister's with whom I found Gunnes Punt and Behro Punt who were soon after joined by Hurry Punt and Appa Balwant. After ordering all servants away Nanna commenced his conversation with a recapitulation of your first letter, that my mission was specially and immediately to re-establish and increase the ancient friendship which was also his ardent wish. He next entered on the subject of your letter in which is mentioned the orders to the Government of Bombay to furnish a body of troops on the Peshwa's application and asked if I had not received letters to the same purpose and whether they agreed in substance with his. Observing his intention I replied that though I could perceive no difference yet I learned his construction involved a difference. He said that could not be and dwelt upon the quibble I have already so fully explained. I fully explained the cause of restricting the operations of our auxiliary troops upon the principles of a due attention to the faith of treatise. Nanna replied that his present object in wishing the junction of our troops was no violation of this principle, nor did it at all entrench on the terms of your offer, since the present objects, the reduction of Kittore and Nurgoodh would be only expelling the enemy from their country, those places having been taken from them by Tippoo. That as to the sense of the offer in any other point of view he could fix none, as at present they had no enemy further advanced into their territories, and of what service would our troops be to the Peshwa encamped at a distance from the scene of action in the centre of his dominions. He begged particularly to know what I understood by the term frontier and whether if with the assistance of our troops they should beat the enemy repeatedly on the frontier we were to advance or wait there till he recovered, that it had been settled by Mr. Johnson to send a body of troops to join them against and punish Tippoo, that the Peshwa had written about that body of troops through



the Nizam, but had received no answer, that tho' the application was made thro' that quarter, yet their treaty of friendship thro' Sindia was what they placed their whole trust in, all this to which I made such answers as occurred and particularly expressed my surprise at their having received no answer to their letter thro' the Nizam, a copy of which I received from Mr. Colebrooke the 12th March, leading to nothing conclusive. I begged to know the Minister's decision on the offer of aid in its present state as directed by the Governor General and Co. and agreed to by the Presidency of Bombay. They immediately desired to know if it would march on their application and on my writing. I replied that another reference would be necessary to Bengal on the subject of pay, etc. They seemed a good deal struck at this, and referring to my credentials after much conversation with each other, observed that my powers implied a much greater latitude of negotiation, but that if even reference was necessary merely on the pay of a body of forces offered, it would be but right also to gain an explicit answer on the doubtful words of the letter and on the way in which the word frontier was to be understood, for instance, while they were recovering their own whether it would be looked on by us as Tippoo's.

In the course of this conversation I could perceive a tendency to doubt our sincerity, and Nanna in particular mentioned the treaty of Tellegaum\* as a proof that our professions were not always to be relied on. To combat the persuasions they seemed to have entertained, I explained in the fullest manner the ment of your offer and the necessary distinction between offensive and defensive alliances, that by urging us to the former they wanted to precipitate us into a real breach of that good faith and sincerity which they now imputed to us without any foundation. I painted in as strong colour as possible the great influence that even a junction of the Company's troops on the latter footing must have on their affairs, that our late treaties with Tippoo and them were of the same nature but that the Governor General and Co's partiality to their cause was strongly and pointedly shown in the decided part taken of joining them. They then asked whether the peace with Tippoo was voluntary and whether he had committed no acts in breach of it. I replied that both the causes and the observance of the Treaty were best known to my superiors, and pointing out to them that this was wandering from the point in question, recalled their attention to the specific offer as contained in your letter. They studiously evaded giving me a clear answer on this head, and Nana desired me to procure answers from Bengal on what he called the doubtful points of the letter and on the sense in which the term frontier was to be understood and that he would also write the Governor General to the same purpose and send his letter to me to forward.

\* Talegaum, 20 Miles N - W of Poona

On my returning to my tent at half past eight p.m. I found my messenger returned from the Bouncello who acquainted me that having waited on that chief and delivered the message I had directed, he had been referred to his Munshy who in terms not the most civil insisted that I should have visited his master who had received letters from Calcutta mentioning my commission and that I was ordered to transact my business through him and that hearing of my approach he had purposely delayed answering those letters till enabled to do it satisfactorily by conversing with me. I was a good deal surprised at this, both as I had so amply accounted for not visiting this chieftain on what I conceive very substantial reasons backed by the insurmountable tho' private one of Nanna's disapprobation, and also because I have not received a line from Calcutta to the purpose mentioned by him.

Notwithstanding this, message came immediately from the Munshi without the civility of a person of the Raja's to deliver it, my consideration for that chief and his former connexion with the Company led me to send another message that the instant I had been freed from indispensable engagements I had advised him of my intention of waiting on him, that I was unfortunately deprived of the power of executing it by the necessity of inarching with Nanna the next morning which I greatly lamented as robbing me of pleasure I had promised myself on that occasion of waiting on him.

Having proceeded very early the 25th in consequence of Nanna's positive assurance that he should also march, I was in the evening joined by Noor-al-Deen Hassan Khan whom I left with Nanna to procure from him an order for my being furnished with a proper place of residence on my arrival at Poona. From him I learned that he had not been able to see Nanna who had been engaged till 12 o'clock with the Bhosla whom he had gone to visit and to endeavour to prevail on him to remain with the army during the rains. He sent on the next day a letter to Nanna begging him to assign a place for my reception at Poona as the rains were very near at hand.

On the 1st instant Behro Punt overtook me at Pusso-Saoulee\* and delivered me the enclosed two letters to your address being one from the Peshwa and one from the Minister in reply to two of yours to their address on the subjects of my appointment, the proffered aid, and the release of the Rodney. Behro Punt on delivering these letters acquainted me that Nanna had deferred the allotment of a place for my residence until his arrival at Poona. As it was late in the evening when Behro Punt arrived I could not take a translate of the letters, though he had brought copies for my information, but as I told him that I should halt the next day both for the refreshment of his people whom he complained of being very much

\* 35 miles south-east of Satara, taluka Khatav.

fatigued and to prepare my despatches, intended to extract the sense of them the next morning, but on getting up I found he had gone, and it was then too late for me to think of marching, thus am I prevented giving you any particular account of the substance of the letters in question

Since leaving the army I have learned that Nanna, after having with some difficulty settled the continuance of the army to the south of the Kistna and arranged matters in such a manner as to preserve at least the appearance of satisfaction amongst the great Chieftains that command, left camp the 26th by the route of Merridge,\* where the ceremony of receiving an entertainment from Persaram Bhau will cause some delay in his progress. By the best intelligence I can collect, the present plan of operations is that Hurry Punt, Persaram Bhau, Badjee Punt Unna, Toocajee Holcar and all the other Peshwa chiefs and jahagirdars, that also Moodajee Bhosle with his own troops and Tuhawar-Jung with Nizam Ali Khan's shall immediately march against Gujindai-Ghur,† a fort inferior in strength to Buddammee and about 10 *cos* distance from it. After its reduction the army is to march and canton in the neighbourhood of Dharwar about 16 *cos* from Buddammee, being the largest and strongest fortress between the Kistna and Tung-Budra. Though this arrangement is said to have taken place, it is conjectured that Moodajee Bhosle will proceed to Nagpore and leave his son Chimnaji in command of his troops.

It is certain that the Mahrattoes are exceedingly elevated by their late conquest and the inactivity of Tippoo. Had not Buddammee fallen it was the received opinion that the army would re-cross the Kistna before the rains, but their present prospects are scarce bounded by the Tung-Budra.

But three possible methods occur to me of accounting for Tippoo Sultan's supineness. 1st—His security either in his knowledge of the Nizam's neutrality, the strength of his own country, or the usual inefficacy of the Mahrattoes' attempts on strongholds that they would not be able to make any material impression before the rains, 2nd—His being resolved to commence hostilities with the most ample and approved apparatus, the preparation of which must necessarily require much time and may probably be connected with some hope of a European ally, Or lastly, a want of confidence in the affections of his troops and leaders. During his war with us the spirit of disaffection appeared even in our favour who could hold forth no temptations either to their avarice or ambition. The Mahrattoes have ample means of gratifying both. If the latter is the case, it is extraordinary that he makes no advances to an accommodation. If the former, we may expect very shortly to hear of his being in motion, tho' from his strength consisting chiefly of infantry and artillery the approaching rains must necessarily greatly impede and

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\* Miraj.

† Gayendragad.

embarrass his operations Since my last I have heard nothing more of his approach

I have now, Honourable Sir, thrown together as well as circumstances will permit, such materials as I have received requisite for the information of you and your Hon'ble Board before whom I have to request you will lay such parts of this letter as you may think worthy their observation, being prevented the honour of a separate address by the long stages I have lately made and I am still making to get to Poona if possible before the rains by which we are daily threatened. I hope to arrive there in four days

I shall hope, Honourable Sir, to be honored with an answer to this address and the letters from the Peshwa and Nanna as soon as possible and at the same time permit me again to request the honour of your commands on the particular points submitted to the consideration of your honourable board in my address of the 5th April relative to the mode of requisition from Bombay and to the pay and line of subordination of the troops should they enter Mahrattæ territories Since Nanna expressed some disappointment when notwithstanding the latitude of my credentials and the reference to me in your letter to him for the settlement of more particular agreements concerning the proffered aid, he found I was furnished with no ultimate instructions thereon.

This proceeds by way of Benares I have stript the enclosed letters of their bags for the convenience of package, and the duplicate of this address I have this day forwarded open through Mr. James Anderson with duplicates of the country letters for his information

In consequence of the orders of your Hon'ble Board to procure certificate of my expenses at Bombay when ordered overland to Calcutta I have addressed the Hon'ble the Governor of Bombay and now enclose a copy of my letter an answer to which I shall transmit as soon as possible after receipt.

**No. 10**—*Malet is looking about for suitable quarters for his residence at Poona.*

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 20th June 1786*

Under the 2nd instant I did myself the honour of troubling the Governor General with a hasty address via Benares.

I arrived the 6th instant, but finding no place allotted for my reception encamped in the environs The two preceding days we had been much incommoded by the rain and sustained a great loss and inconvenience from

a violent storm. The 7th Nanna arrived, and entered the city the same night. During my stay at Buddammee a European formerly belonging to the Bombay Military applied to me to be readmitted to the Co.'s service, which I complied with on being assured by him that his detention after the conclusion of the peace was by force and that many more British subjects were still in the same predicament.

After frequent applications I was on the 14th instant informed that a proper place was assigned for my residence, though I found on enquiry that the quarters allotted consisted of two distinct places without any habitable house in either, yet as one of them was reported to be a large square containing a number of hovels in which our servants might be sheltered from the rain, I resolved to accept them. On taking possession of the premises which I did the same day, I found in one of them a very mean old house rent on all sides from top to bottom, and in the other the bare timber of a very small new one. I accordingly cleared away ground enough for pitching my tent as did the gentlemen of my party, and we are now under the disadvantage of the lateness of the season busily employed in erecting bungalows. The Government has also ordered the new unfinished house to be completed for my accommodation.

On the 17th instant I received a visit from Behro Punt who made me a proposal on the part of the Minister for settling the divisions of the Siddee Government, and the particulars of which you will learn from the enclosed copy of my letter to the Presidency of Bombay. He acquainted me that a body of about 30,000 of Tippoo's forces was advanced to the Tung-Budra and that another very large body of near 40,000 men had attacked the strong fortress of Adoni, the peynt of which had been taken the first day by storm, that the Nizam had sent a body of troops to raise the siege and that in consequence of an application from him to this Government, a strong body under the following three chiefs—Badjee Punt Enna,\* Appa Bulwant and Ragho† Pundit was ordered to march from the army under Hurry Punt for Adoni in company with the detachment of the Nizam's troops acting with the Mahrattoes. It is thought that this body will not be able to pass the Tung Budra. I do not find that Tippoo has taken the field in person. Behro Punt next acquainted me that Nanna had received intelligence that gentlemen both from Bombay and Madras were under orders to proceed to the Court of Tippoo Sultan and begged to know if it was authentic. I disclaimed all knowledge of any intention of sending a gentleman from Bombay but that during the prevalence of the persuasion of Tippoo Sultan's death, a deputation was intended to congratulate his successor. He seemed well satisfied with this, on my assuring him that should such an arrangement be made, I should undoubtedly receive immediate official intimation of it.

\* Bajipant Anna.

† Raghunathrao Patwardhan

I am informed that on the news of the motion of Tippoo's troops the attack of Gujunder Ghur was deferred, nor do I yet learn the design has been resumed.

During my application for a place of residence I was offered quarters in which Mons Montigne resides This I thought proper to decline accepting, conceiving it a cruel piece of personal incivility, a breach of the rights of hospitality, and a degradation of the character of a public minister in which it would be highly indecent and impolitic to have any concern

**No. 11**—Malet sends news to the G. G. about the capture of Adoni by Tipu and the situation of the two fighting armies.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL & CO., CALCUTTA.

*Poona, 7th July 1786.*

On 24th I learnt that Moodajee Bhosla had left the army, his troops remaining under the command of Sultan and intelligence was received that Nizam Ally Khan had expressed himself dissatisfied with his minister Mushir-Al-Mulk on learning that Tippoo had attacked Adoni This intelligence connected with the persuasion that the Nizam had returned to Hyderabad in consequence of this minister's negotiations with Tipoo and a security from that quarter, for the truth of which I cannot vouch. On the 26th I was advised from the Army that the detachment, which in my last is said to have marched from Hurry Pundit's army, had joined the Nizam's forces and that the joint bodies amounting to upwards of 40,000 men would if possible immediately cross the Tung-Bhadra. On the 29th news arrived of the surrender of Gujundur Ghur to Hari Punt on the 19th, and that he meant now to proceed to the relief of Adoni The same day I was informed that Said, one of Tippoo Sultan's commanders, after succeeding at the head of about 10,000 men in throwing supplies provisions etc into Darwar and Nulgoond, had been attacked by Holcar and Gunnes Pundit and with some loss and difficulty made his retreat to the jungles.

On the 30th I was told that the troops which had rendezvouzed at Raichore under Mogul Ally Khan and the Mahrattoe chiefs mentioned in my last letter, had crossed the Tung Bhadra, in consequence of which the army before Adoni had raised the seige and moved toward Billarie a strong fortress belonging to Tippoo Sultan in the neighbourhood of Gutti about 15 cos from Adoni.

About this time by private intelligence I learnt that Mahadjee Scindia [in a letter] to this Darbar had expressed very lively apprehensions from the flight of Anupgheer and Omragheer to the court of Lucknow. On the 1st instant my people brought me a person who had been Jummadar in one of the Bombay Battalions and was taken a prisoner with General

Mathews. He had accompanied Tippoo Sultan on his expedition against Koorga Mallabars about 8 months ago and after the reduction of that country attended him back to Seringapatam soon after which the preparations for the present warfare commenced Tippoo in person began his march from his capital about 3 months ago and reached Bangalore in short marches, halted there about 20 days, his Brother Kerim accompanied him to this place Tippoo's progress from Bangalore by the way of Guttu and Adoni was, he relates, also very slow, I suppose designedly to collect his troops which joined him from all parts during the march and probably to gain time for the rains to swell the Tunga budra to prevent relief. The army arrived before Adoni about 40 days ago, plundered the town all day and immediately raised 5 batteries against the fort which he represents as extremely strong About 8 days after during which time rumours were circulated for the success of the Mahratta against Badami, the batteries were opened, a general assault was ordered and a breach was made A general escalade was accordingly attempted which failed with a loss of 5,000 men according to the reports of the army. Soon after this certain news was received of the fall of Badamee and that the Mahratta army was advancing to the Tung Bhadia on which the troops were ordered to provide themselves with 8 days provisions and keep that supply by them. Soon after this the informant took an opportunity of making his escape with a Bombay Jumadar whom he left on the road. On his arrival at Raichur Nizam Ally Khan's troops were there in great force and the Mahrattoes were daily expected to join them He said he had been 20 days travelling from the Army to Poona This person says positively that Tippoo commands the army in person before Adoni though this Government either is or pretends to be ignorant of these circumstances, that it is composed of near 60 thousand regular horse and 40 thousand irregular foot with matchlocks, that his train of artillery is very numerous and exceedingly well supplied with bullocks and elephants, that exclusive of this park there are 4 field pieces attached to each *toeree*\* (a term given to an establishment of 4 battalions); that there are 15 battalions of *chelyas* or slaves composed of captives, fugitives and renegades, who have voluntarily embraced or by compulsion been forced into Mahommedenism Amongst these are a great many English who are furnished with wives by the Siicar so as to instruct them in the language and tenets of their new Faith to which the most rigid observance is given The *Chelyas* are regularly quartered in barracks and have their daily food from . . . which institution has a near resemblance to that of the Janizaries; that the cavalry of the army were in general bad; and that the corps of Monsieur . . . did not consist of a thousand men of which there were 50 Europeans and that the infantry neither in point of discipline or affection deserve much confidence

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\**Tukdi* = division.

On the 2nd instant I received overtures from Govindrao Gaikwad through Behro Punt to make the Company a cession of territory in Guzerat if they would join with two battalions to assist him in the recovery of his right from Futtysing, the pay of the battalions to be defrayed by Govindrao while acting in his service. I naturally asked Nanna's opinion and I was assured that though he wished not to appear in the negotiation yet it would meet his wishes. I have thought it necessary to make you acquainted with this circumstance that I may be honoured by your sentiments as to the degree of attention to be paid to such kind of proposals, because I look upon it as a strong trait in the Mahratta politics, particularly that line which has been adopted by Mhadajee Scindia who I find is the professed and warm patron of [Govindrao] and is constantly urging Nanna to support his cause in opposition to his brothers and because, had I slighted it entirely, it would probably have been made through some other channel.

On the 3rd intelligence arrived that the Mahiattoe and the Nizam's forces were encamped four cos to the south of the Tung Bhadra, that Tippoo Sultan had raised the siege of Adoni and had encamped 8 cos from the allied army. Letters of the Nizam to this Durbar are full of the warmest acknowledgment for the timely aid he met with on this important occasion. Great exertions are making here to defray the expenses of this winter campaign for which purpose a supply of 75 lacs is immediately wanted.

This Durbar now speaks very lightly of Tippoo and the immediate effect of that body which has crossed the Tung Badra in causing him to quit the siege of Adoni seems to justify their language. A very few days would probably determine if in his attack of Adoni he has not meant to reduce the allies to the alternative of losing this important place or to the necessity of crossing the Tung Bhadra to its relief at a season when either to return or to be reinforced will be extremely difficult and of course give him the advantage of attacking them under the protection of his forts.

On my return from the army I directed a person employed by the Peshwa's government for communicating intelligence to remain there and keep both me and his government informed of the motions of the army. I also introduced him to Hurry Punt and promised to get consent for his remaining. Two days after my arrival at Poona I was surprised to see him also returned and on enquiry found it was by Nanna's directions. I have since entertained a servant of my own to supply his place and dispatched another to Hyderabad.

On the 7th I received authentic intelligence that a party of Tippoo Sultan's troops had been worsted by one from the allied army to southward of Tung-Budra, the Commander of which was taken prisoner. The allied army remained about 8 cos from Tippoo's encampment and Hurry Punt with the main body of the Mahrattas was certainly advanced within 6 cos of the Tong Budra.



**No. 12**—Malet describes the fall of Adoni into the hands of Tipu.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND CO.

*Poona, 14th July 1786*

I have the honour to enclose copy of my last address of the 7th instant. On that day Shamajee Hassajee Commdt, 2 Subhedars, 2 Jamadars of the Bombay establishment and 2 Englishmen, all of whom had been detained on the pacification and since enlarged on consenting to enter into Tippoo's service, arrived here having made their escape with great peril and difficulty from the army near Adoni. The Commander whom I found to be a very observant and shrewd man confirms every part of the other Jamadar's information as communicated in my last letter and gives some additional intelligence with the detail of which I have taken the liberty of troubling the Governor General.

On the 9th instant I received a letter from Mr. Secretary Bruere enclosing bills of exchange for Bombay which I despatched immediately. This letter came by the way of Banaries and was 32 days from that place. Had the cossids been promised enam they would have performed the journey in twenty.

On the 10th arrived another Jamadar who had made his escape from Tippoo's army with 4 others but parted on the road. On the 12th 2 other Jamadars came in from the same quarter.

I have desired Lieut. Hiern to advance all those who arrived, with money for their expenses to Bombay and to despatch them immediately. The 11th instant I received intelligence that the allied forces which had crossed the Tung Budra to the relief of Adoni and which was actually effected by that motion, finding themselves greatly straightened in their quarters by the neighbourhood of Tippoo's army, the uncertainty of procuring supplies from the north of the river and the impracticability of foraging in the neighbourhood of such an enemy in the country where every village is fortified and every peasant armed, came to the resolution of re-crossing the Tung Budra. The Killedar of Adoni Mohabat Jung thinking himself unsafe without the countenance and protection of this body joined it with his family and effects and left the place almost destitute of a garrison. In consequence of this very extraordinary conduct that very strong and important fortress has since fallen into the hands of Tippoo Sultan.

I have now the honour to enclose an account of my expenses from 15th January 1785 to 7th of December following, including the space in which I commenced my Journey from Surat to the receipt of my credentials in Calcutta. The balance except the sum of Rs. 288-2-0 is in the course of payment by an order on the treasury for 10,000 rupees granted me by your honourable board before I left Calcutta. I have

not, agreeable to your commands of the 4th of April through Mr. Secy. Hay, included the amount of income of my posts during the time of my absence, because I have not yet received the certificate you require of these amounts and because I flatter myself that on a reconsideration of the subject some particulars of which I have taken the liberty to explain to the Governor General, you will deem that an inadequate compensation for the local and commercial advantages I possessed and the prejudice to which my affairs have been subjected by quitting them.

Moodajec Bhosle arrived here on the 12th instant from the army. Nanna wished him to proceed immediately to Nagpore and join the army immediately after the rains, but his object in coming here is to gain a dispensation from any further personal attendance.

The minister frequently applies to me for intelligence from Calcutta but as I have not been honoured with an answer to any of my addresses since my arrival at this place, I am consequently obliged to give him evasive answers.

**No. 13**—This is an important pronouncement of the aims of British policy in India with reference to the various powers internal and foreign. It is addressed by the Court of Directors to the Governor General

*Extract of a letter from the Secret Committee of the Honourable Court of Directors to the Governor General and Council*

*London, 21st July 1786.*

An answer to the communications contained in your letter, from the 25th to the 36th paragraphs inclusive, and to the Questions specially proposed, leads us to take an enlarged view of the general Politics of India, as connected with or to be necessarily influenced by our own situation and that of other nations in Europe. The latter is a fixed object which admits of small variation in a long series of years. The former, our situation, as connected with the general politics of India, is more variable from many causes, such as the dissolution of general empire in India, the want of systematic conduct, and regard to public faith in the Princes of India, and the nature of treaties generally formed amongst them upon the spur of the occasion for no prescribed term of years, nor declared to extend beyond the life of the contracting parties.

Circumstances of the nature here alluded to must frequently alter the bearing and positions of the several powers to one another and require our Government in some degree to steer a different course. but one universal principle never to be departed from, either in the present condition of the Native Powers, or in any future revolutions amongst them is that we are completely satisfied with the possessions we already have, and will engage in no war for the purpose of further acquisitions. But in this general instruction we do not mean to depart from the principle we have always had in view, to unite our Indian possessions by an acquisition of Cuttack, if any favourable moment should arise for obtaining it by negotiation.

The next leading principle which must occupy your attention is to keep a constant watch upon the conduct of all European rivals, particularly the French. And as they cannot possibly interfere in the disputes of any of the native Princes without ultimately intending prejudice to us, it seems to follow as a just conclusion and not to be much concealed in our communication with Indian Princes, that if any of them shall accept of European aid, we shall feel ourselves warranted to throw the aid of our force into the opposite scale. It ought to be inculcated in every transaction with them, that the acceptance of any such aid can only be with the risk of having our whole force immediately employed to crush the effects of it.

It should be generally known and understood that peace is our primary object, that the wish to pursue the interchanges of trade beneficial to them, and to us, with every country in India and to render those parts of India which are within our immediate administration, completely happy under the protection of the British Power; that we shall refrain from all interference in the contentions which may arise amongst the Native Princes, unless called for by the stipulations of any existing treaty; but that we shall not take advantage of their jealousies of one another in order to aggrandize the British Power by the depression of any one of them.

On the other hand, whilst we are contented to pursue this pacific and neutral system in our own particular, we shall be strictly jealous of every interference from any other European Nation whatever, which may either disturb the peace of India, or introduce their own arms or influence to sow distraction amongst the Princes or inhabitants.

We have the satisfaction to observe, in adverting to the several treaties by which we are connected with the Chief Powers in India, the obligations of them are entirely consonant with the general principles we have prescribed and the policy we have directed to be pursued in the Government of our Indian possessions.

Having stated these general principles we answer *to the 1st question*.—

1st If France not only unites “by treaty, but sends actual force to the aid either of the Mahrattas, or Tippoo, ought we to assist the opposite party?

If any Indian Power takes the aid of France, we ought to give the most effectual aid to the opposite party. Upon the system established by the Peace of Salbye we ought to consider Scindia as our particular ally, and it does not at present occur to us that almost any system of politics can soon take place in India, which with the aid of Scindia we may not be able to counteract, if in its tendency prejudicial to us.

To the 2nd question,—

“2nd. How far ought we to interfere in the event of Tippoo’s success against the Mahrattas or theirs against him to preserve a balance between the two Powers?

If the French do not interfere with one of the Powers here mentioned, we can have no business to take any part.

To the 3rd question,—

“ 3rd Should we endeavour at the risk of a rupture with Scindia to unite with the Courts of Poona, or Berar to break an union which under the Mogul sanction may become too formidable ? ”

We do not apprehend any interest which Scindia can have, as a separate Power from the rest of the Poona Government, to disregard our alliance, which at all times must be of importance to him, and particularly so, if standing upon a separate ground from that of the Courts of Poona and Berar, and therefore we cannot at present figure to ourselves any foundation for speculating upon so improbable a contingency as this question supposes. If contrary to probability, Scindia, instead of our ally, should become our enemy, either secret or open, you can be under no difficulty how to act. Upon the general drift of this question, we must again advert to what we have uniformly directed that our Governments shall not inter-meddle with, or make themselves parties in the intrigues of Indian Powers.

To the 4th question,—

“ 4th. How far should the Shah Zadah be supported in the event of a rupture with Scindiah, who could of course act under the supposed authority of the Mogul, now in his hands. In other words, might not the Shah Zadah in such case be declared by us the only legal representative of his father ? ”

It might once have been matter of serious consideration how far it would have been for the interest of Great Britain to have raised the Mogul power to a greater degree of splendour and importance, but circumstanced as we now are with regard to Scindia, it does not occur to us that there is any reasonable ground to look for any such contingency, as to induce us to enter into so hazardous an enterprize as the re-establishment of the Mogul Power. If any unforeseen occurrences should take place, the Government upon the spot at the time, must act as their wisdom shall suggest for the preservation of our own territories. But the security of our possessions must be their only object, and not ideas of splendour, aggrandizement or ambition.

Your third and fourth questions suppose a Power dangerous to us to be raised by the Mogul Shah Allum and Madajee Scindia united, and a rupture with us to take place, which we trust is distant from all probability. As yet, there have been no important and conspicuous movements which seem to indicate ambitious schemes, or to explain the original principles of that union. And, when we consider that the connexion itself was formed contrary both to the religious bias and popular prejudices of India, we conceive it far from impossible that it may be shaken by mutual disappointment, or that it may be of no very long duration.

To the 5th question,—

5th. In the event of a convulsion in Tippoo's Government, should we permit the Mahrattas to establish their power completely over his dominions in the neighbourhood of the Carnatic?

We are inclined to believe that a proper use of our connection with Scindia may relieve us from any apprehensions from the ruling Government of Poona considering the jealousies known to exist amongst the general branches of the Mahratta power. For it is only by a supposed union of that Power, that it can become formidable to us. Our answer to the 2nd question applies equally to the 5th.

To the 6th question,—

6th. In the event of Tipoo's getting possession of the Guntoor Circar, and pressing Nizam Ally too hard, should we, or should we not, give the latter effectual and immediate aid?

We must consider the circars as our own territories, as they truly are, and not permit any successful invasion of the Guntoor Circar or any other part of them.

To the 7th question,—

7th. Should Timur Shah Abdally march into Hindostan, as is generally believed to be his present intention founded on an invitation from Shah Allum, who is impatient of his restraints under Mahaje Scindia and distrustful of receiving any support from the Company, what line should we take in the contests that will ensue between the Hindostan and Mogul Powers, or are we to take any?

Nothing is stated to us to convey a probability of the march of Timur Shah Abdally into Hindostan, with any views likely to affect our interest; and it would require a knowledge not only of the views with which he might come, but of the power by which he is to be supported, to enable us to give any decisive instructions upon such an event. The mere circumstance of an invitation from Shah Allum if true, would certainly not justify us in forming any speculation for offensive measures to be pursued on our part.

**No. 14**—Malet in this letter deals with several topics connected with the Peshwa's Court, his visit to Mudhoji Bhosle, capture of Adoni by Tipu, and to the French intrigues at Poona.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND CO, CALCUTTA.

*Poona, 31st July 1786.*

In consequence of your directions that the Surveyor and Surgeon and guard attached to this residency from Bombay should be paid by that Government under the 20th instant, I have forwarded the accounts of those different departments and the account of disbursements of the guard regulars that accompanied me in my journey from Surat to Mahadjee

Scindia's Camp. I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter to the Bombay Board on that occasion.

Being desirous of showing every mark of respect to one who has had so long and so intimate a connection with your honourable the Government and whose power renders his good will an object of importance, I immediately on Moodajee Bhonsla's arrival here sent a message with the usual compliments and expressions of my desire to wait on him. Anxious however to prevent the smallest cause of jealousy or dissatisfaction to this Government whose conciliation is my grand object, I communicated my wishes to the minister on the general principle of respect for the Mahrattoes Government in which that chieftain holds the first rank. Pleased with this mark of attention he assured me of his approval of my intention and that he would take upon himself to regulate the ceremonial meeting in such a manner as should give a new proof of his respect for the Company.

On the 21st I proceeded in a public manner to the Raja's camp without the city at some distance from which I was met by his son Chimna who conducted me to the Durbar tent on entering which the Raja met me. After being seated he expatiated much on the length and intimacy of himself with your honourable government in which I thought he seemed to dwell more fully to give a show of his own importance to Behro Pant who accompanied me in this visit, since his conversation implied that he had connections with the Company independent of and anterior to the Peshwas.

On the 22nd Moodajee accompanied by his son and principal officers returned my visit. After the usual compliments I reminded him of his promise of showing me the letter from Bissumber Pundit and on his replying that he had brought it for that purpose, begged him to withdraw with me into a private apartment where a very voluminous Mahratta epistle was produced and the Raja with great pomp ordered the whole to be read. On coming to the part in question and finding that the communications of the Vakil precisely corresponded with the intentions of the honourable government and the declarations of the Hon'ble the Governor General as made in the last copy of the letter to the Peshwa, I claimed both the Raja's and Behro Pundit's attention to this particular point of which they were now perfectly able to judge as expressed in their own language; nor could they withhold their assent to its giving a clear and unequivocal declaration that the company's troops would not be permitted to be used offensively against Tippoo in his own territories. This point being cleared up perfectly to my satisfaction, I mentioned to the Raja the inconvenience and delay to which my correspondence with Calcutta was subjected by my Cossids taking the very long route of Burhanpur and Sagur to Benares while the straight road lay through Nagpur and Rewan but was not used in consequence of some impediments in latter districts, which it seems are under an independent

Rajah. To remove these difficulties, I begged him to furnish me with dustucks, and a letter to the Rajah of Rewan, which he promised to do, and has since performed. He at the same time begged to know if I could establish a friendship between the Rajah of Rewan Muckunpora, and the Governor-General, I replied that I was entirely ignorant of the circumstances of that Zemindar with respect to the Company's Government but would consult the Chief of Benares on the subject and on receipt of his answer, let him know what further steps could be taken in the business. I have accordingly written to the Resident by this opportunity.

Soon after the Raja expressed his desire to depart, when I presented him a horse, a suit of armour, a sirpech and Kulgheer, velvet, three bell lamps, one pair of Kincobs, one pair of shawls, three pairs of Tafta; to his son a sirpech, 1 pair of shawls, two pairs of Tafta and among his companions 6 pairs of Kincobs and some turbands.

On the 23<sup>d</sup> I had a conference with the minister to inquire again of the Calcutta news which gave me an opportunity of acquainting him with our intention being dropped of sending any person to the Mysore Durbar. Some time before we had received intelligence that such persons were to be sent both from Madras and Bombay but I showed to him the cause of those reports and assured him that it now no longer exists. He enquired particularly of the present state of Europe and more especially about the circumstances of the cession of Trincomale to the French. He intimated his intelligence of the increase of the Company's forces at the different Presidencies and desired to know if there was not a prospect of fresh hostilities between the French and the English. I accounted for the cession of Trincomale which I have lately learned from authority is true, as being a compensation made by the Dutch for the French mediation in settling their disputes with the emperor. The increase of our army was the result of the deliberations of wise government that secured against consequences the most distant if within the bounds of possibility, and that those new signs of wealth of which the economy and wisdom of the present Governor-General had laid the foundation, could not be better employed than in putting the army on such a footing as might awe our enemies and give confidence to our friends. I referred to his own judgment for the probability of the French commencing hostilities against the people at peace with all the world whom they had not been able to withstand at war with above half of it. He seemed satisfied in this reassuring. I have been more minute on these points of conversation because I have great reason to think that the three topics treated of in it have been greatly harped on by the French interest here to impress Nanna with an opinion of the French power and our dread of it, but as it has been the particular object of my attention since my arrival here both publicly and privately to place the French politics in a true light and to contrast their intrigue with our candor, their empty boasts with actual deeds, their poverty with our wealth, their slender and precarious tenures

with our ample and established possessions, in a word their weakness with our strength. I flatter myself if Nanna is not already, he soon will be, weaned from further reliance on that quarter, and you may have collected from my former letters, that though much stress was laid on Monsieur Montigne's offers in the application of this Government for aid through Madajee Sindhia, yet since my arrival here has not met with much respect and attention from the Mahrattas.

Nana fully explained to me the cause of the Mahratta troops recrossing the Tung-Budra which perfectly corresponds with what I have already had the honour to communicate. The evacuation of Adoni was owing to the extraordinary pusillanimity of Nizam Ally Khan's troops and the leaders, none of whom could be persuaded to undertake the defence of that very strong fortress. When the allies recrossed the Tung-Budra grain was excessively dear. I could not help observing that the capture of such a place by Tippoo and the retreat of the allies at such a time were events of the highest consequence, that had the latter after so brilliant an effect as the crossing of the Tung Bhadra had been attended with, been able to remain in the neighbourhood of Adoni and supply themselves with forage etc. either from the country toward that river or toward Carnoul, it is probable that the notorious disaffection of Tippoo's troops increased by disappointment would have led them eagerly to fly to the asylum offered them by their neighbourhood. He would probably have lost half his army by desertion and been conquered without a battle, whereas by the retreat the case is entirely altered. For though that measure was caused by mere want of forage the world will impute it to inferiority of force. Not a soldier of that army which was ready to fall to pieces without the efforts of an enemy can now make his escape, that their leader if he has seen the inefficacy of his former vigorous conduct to them, may use his success in the capture of Adoni as a specious opportunity of conciliating them by largesses and indulgence while the country toward Kurnoul and Guntur Circar lies open and defenceless to his incursions. I mentioned in proof of my observations that since the retreat of the allies not a deserter had arrived from Tippoo's army, nor had we received the smallest intelligence of his operations.

After further conversation he desired me to procure answers as soon as possible from the Hon'ble the Governor General and observed that aid only was acceptable when granted speedily. I then took my leave.

On the 23rd Moodajee marched and on the 27th I had a public ceremonious audience of the Peshwa.

If, Hon'ble Sir and Gentlemen, you will recollect that in your letter of the 14th February no intimation is given that an ultimate reference relative to the troops from Bombay was to be made to Bengal, of which circumstance I was ignorant till the 27th April when the Bombay Government favoured me with a copy of your letter to them of the 14th February, and that in the Governor General's letter to the Peshwa dated 20th February reference is made to me for the settlement of more particular agreements,



I am led to hope that my application for the particular instructions contained in my letter of the 5th April will appear to you rather founded in a necessary provision for a probable predicament than arising from that misconception of your intentions by a readiness to enter into particular arrangements of which your Hon'ble Board expressed an apprehension. I am strengthened in this hope by the entire approval of your Honourable Board of the means I have decided to adopt for the accomplishment of your wishes in the delay of a negotiation which, I am persuaded, my whole correspondence will evince my solicitude to protract.

You may assure yourselves, Hon'ble Sir and Gentlemen, that the strictest attention shall be paid to economy in my drafts on you. At the same time it is necessary to acquaint you that from the great arrears now due to me I shall be under the necessity of drawing for a large sum as soon as I receive credit from Naggindas in consequence of the letter from his superior at Calcutta lately enclosed to me by Mr Secy Hay.

I am happy to find that in my attentions to Moodajee Bhosla I had anticipated your wishes.

From the great difficulty of procuring intelligence in these parts of the motions of Tipu Sultan since possessed of the whole country south of the Tong Budra, I presume that in future the earliest notice of his operations will be communicated from Madras, I shall not however relax in my endeavours to keep acquainted with them. By the last advices the allied army was in the neighbourhood of Copal and Darwar where they intended to canton.

My letters mention a probability of Hurry Punt's setting off for Poona as soon as the cantonment of the army is settled. Rice was at 4 pucca seers a rupee and inferior grain at 8. This is very dear, considering that the whole country in the rear of the army is and has been entirely free from an enemy. Dated 1st August I have this instant received intimation that Harry Punt having taken the brother of the Killadar of Dharwar prisoner has through him set on foot a negotiation for the surrender of that fort. This packet is being sent by the route of Nagpur and Rewan by three old and trusty servants and if I can establish the intercourse by this route, I hope to get my letters to Calcutta in 25 days at the farthest.

**No. 15**—Malet mentions his visit to the Peshwa and the presents he was given.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL & CO., CALCUTTA.

*Poona, 31 July 1786.*

My last respects to you accompanied my Publick Despatch of the 14th of July.

By the same channel through which I have received all my intelligence of Mons Montigne's negotiations, I learn that the whole force of his correspondence has been directed to divert his countrymen from the coast

of Coramandel to that of Malabar where our possessions are most vulnerable and where by gaining a footing they would be able at leisure to form such connections with Tippoo and the Mahrattas as would be attended with the most destructive consequences to the British interests in Hindustan. The Minister continues boldly to assert that a war between our nations is not far distant nor does he scruple to predict that the event will be the downfall of the Company's power in the east. My public advisers explain the measures I have taken to counteract these gasconades \*

I hope, Hon'ble Sir, that my frequent letters on which I believe you place some faith, will show that the same doctrine of procrastination consistently pursued has long since removed that apprehension expressed in your public commands of May 16th, of my having mistaken your intentions. Of the letter offering aid, you may recollect that I even hesitated to deliver it, that I afterwards from the same motive protracted my march to the army, and when Nanna unexpectedly made his demand on the Government of Bombay previous to seeing me, I endeavoured to furnish that Government with evasive arguments by an adoption of which I conceive the respect to your experimentive orders would not have been impeachable, but of which they did not think themselves at liberty to take advantage.

On my visit to the Peshwa on the 27th which was looked on as an occurrence of ceremony and confirmation of my appointment which has been postponed till Nanna could be present, he presented me an elephant, a horse and a dress regarding the disposal of which I shall be happy to be honoured with your commands. It seems the young Peshwa is exceedingly pleased with a small elephant sent him by Sindia as I am told very small ones are frequent and cheap in Bengal and indeed Nanna gave me a hint of it. You will gain that gentleman's heart could you send him one, the smaller the better.

**No. 16**—Malet writing to the Governor of Madras reports the progress of the War between the Marathas and Tipu and the manner in which the latter had treated his European prisoners.

**TO—SIR ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.**

*Poona, 11 August 1786.*

Your commands of the 10th of July which reached me on the 8th instant arrived very opportunely to relieve me from the difficulty I laboured under for a reasonable pretence of paying my respects and congratulating your succession to the Madras Government.

The precipitated retreat of Tippoo from before Adoni on the detachment of the allied army crossing the Tung Bhudra must naturally have prepared you to hear of the allies having penetrated further south and your surprize must have been great, learning that the issue was diametrically opposite,—

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\*Boasts.

that the allies had recrossed the Tung Bhudra in confusion and that the important though abandoned fortress of Adoni had fallen without further resistance into the hands of Tippoo. The rulers here impute this to the pusillanimity of the Nizam's troops who absolutely refused to remain in this place on the retreat of the Mahrattas who found their quarters too much straitened by the neighbourhood of Tippoo and provisions too dear to remain south of Tung Bhadra. This important conquest lays the whole of the Kurnool and Guntoor countries open to Tippoo and is a very ample recompense for what he has lost to the north. Another grand advantage to Tippoo's affairs in this conquest is the total prevention of all communication between him and the enemies armies. While that was practicable and while there was the smallest prospect of success in the attempt there was a general desertion among his troops who were to a man disaffected. Amidst the confusion that prevailed on his hasty retreat from before Adoni many black officers and sepoy's belonging to Bombay who had been detained on the general release of prisoners at the pacification, made their escape and have passed by this route to Bombay, and three or four days ago came in a Lieut. Bee who with another officer had been surprised in a fortified island during the cessation of arms previous to the peace and who also had been detained at the general release. This gentleman escaped about the same time with the others in company with a Mr. Davis formerly a Lieut. in the Nabob of Arcot's service. Several Europeans went off about the same time, who with Mr. Davis went towards Hyderabad with an intention of proceeding to Madras. Mr. Bee says that Tippoo has upwards of three hundred English in his service most of whom have been compelled to become Mahomedans particularly Messrs. Rutledge and Steedman, officers of the Madras establishment, the latter of whom, under the influence of grief and despair, put an end to his own existence. He adds that there are some young boys who have been taught to dance in the country style and are forced to amuse the tyrant with their exhibitions. One of these unfortunate wretches was meant for a Eunuch but died under the effect of the operation. From the accounts which I have received from all quarters of the disaffection of his troops and the precipitation with which this prince abandoned the siege of Adoni, I am persuaded that the greatest advantage would have resulted to the allies could they have only kept their ground south of the Tung Bhudra. The late very general desertion from his army may have now taught Tippoo the necessity of conciliating the affection of his troops and his great and unexpected good fortune has given him an excellent plea for a more liberal and indulgent conduct to them. Not a man is come that left his army after the retreat of the allies, nor have we the smallest intelligence of his motions since that time. The Mahrattas and Nizam's Troops have remained inactive since the retreat, previous to which the main Body of the Mahrattas under Hurry Punt had taken Cajendraghur by capitulation. By my last accounts the Mahrattas under Hurry Punt were near Madgul about 10 coss north of the

Tung Bhadra The Nizam's forces are about 5 coss from them and Holkar's near Dharwar in the neighbourhood of which place it was expected the whole army would canton. There are some reports that the Killedar of that fort is in negotiation with Hurray Punt to deliver it up to him. Grain was very dear in the army. Tippoo's troops to the north of the Tung Bhadra under Burhan-al-Deen though unable to cope with Mahrattas in the field gave them frequent alarms from the fort in which they have taken post. Nizam Ally Khan it is said is levying troops and means again to take the field in person after the rains. This Government before my arrival laid great stress on the French offers for assistance to induce us to grant our aid but if I may draw any conclusion from the manner in which the minister of that nation is now treated, my appointment has been very effectual in counteracting a connection so ruinous to our interests. I have good reason to think from Lieut. Bee's accounts that some person from Pondicherry in a publick character has lately joined Tippoo. I find it difficult to persuade this Government that the affairs of Europe are likely to remain long in tranquillity. This I impute to the insinuations of the French who feeling their present insignificance, industriously spread the report of an approaching war in which they are infallibly to overwhelm us and establish their importance on our side. Their late connection with the Dutch and acquisition of Trincomale are adduced as indisputable proofs of the approaching revolution. Having now the sanction of your commands to honour you with my respects I shall frequently take that liberty. Permit me also to hope that acquainted as you are with the importance of my having the earliest and best intelligence, you will honour me with accurate information of the motions of the French on the island of Ceylon and the coast of Trincomale that I may be possessed of the requisite materials for combating the intrigues at this Court.

**No. 17**—Malet graphically describes the arrival of French agents at Poona for laying the foundation of an intrigue against the Company's interests.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 21 August 1786.*

On the 16th I received by a private channel the following account of a French gentleman named Gudar that arrived here some days ago and took up his abode with Mons Montigne, that on the 12th he was introduced to Nanna by Mons M and presented a letter to him from the Governor of Pondicherry who by my intelligence is called Mons. Eusnee. After the ceremony of introduction Mons Montigne mentioned him as a person high in the confidence of the Governor of Pondicherry and on Nanna's desiring to know the object of his journey, reference was made to the letter, and Nanna was further informed that extraordinary reports

were spread at Pondicherry of his late great attention to the English and the Minister of that nation, and that one object of Mons G's journey was to collect precise and accurate intelligence on that point. Nanna then asked if his (Mons. M's) representations were not trustworthy which query Mons. Montigne parried by further reference to the letter and to the customs of his country. Nanna also observed that his accounts from the English gave him to understand that the utmost cordiality subsisted between the two nations and begged to know if there was any reason to doubt it, to which Mons. Montigne with a mysterious smile, replied that four months would discover, adding that his advice to Nanna was to persevere in his friendship for the French and his engagements with them. After some further conversation Nanna referred Mons. Montigne and his guest to Emrut Rao, a Brahmin of the first rank and consequence through whom their business is transacted. I am further informed that Mons. Gudar visited the Nizam on his way hither, probably with the same view of sounding his inclinations, but speaks of that prince in a manner that does not imply his having met with a very gracious reception. On the first news of this Frenchman's errand, I conjectured that it might be the same person Lt. Bee had left in the neighbourhood of Tippoo's Camp, but on enquiry I find that the person employed on it left Pondicherry some days before this to be a distinct deputation from Pondicherry. I am told that Mon. Montigne in his own circle speaks confidently of an approaching war, that the French Ministry had required the English to acquaint them of the number of European troops employed by Great Britain and had resolved to send out the same, which being computed at 10,000, he observed that 3,000 were already at Pondicherry, that about 5,000 more were expected to arrive shortly in six men of war, and that the remainder would be made up from Mauritius; that this force would enable them to support their allies and should it be agreeable to the Peshwa to mediate a peace between his Government and Tippoo's, observing that should the latter prove refractory he might easily be forced into terms. Trincomalee is on all occasions magnified into a place of the utmost strength and importance by the possession of which Madras now lies at the mercy of the French. From the nature of all private intelligence, I cannot vouch for any part of this. You will from your more extensive knowledge of the general state of politics be able to form a correcter judgment of the credit due to it than I can. At all events the idea of French mediation in the present state of affairs seems a dangerous one, since could they in that character introduce themselves to the management of so important a negotiation, it would not only give them an opportunity of greatly increasing their influence in Hindustan but of laying the foundation of intrigues and designs highly prejudicial to the Company's interests. An introduction to this office is greatly facilitated by the probability that both this Darbar and Tippoo might easily be accommodated

in their views at the expense of Nizam Ally Khan whose desertion of the Mahrattas before Buddammie and the subsequent extraordinary and pusillanimous conduct of his troops across the Tung-Budra and evacuation of Adoni, has left him very little to expect from this quarter. On the other hand both parties have every reason to be perfectly satisfied with the issue of the last campaign and scarce any room to hope for advantage from another adequate to the great expense of their respective armaments.

At all events a peace between these two powers, whose restless spirit we are too well acquainted with, through a mediation equally restless the whole art and industry of whom would be employed to convert that spirit to the accomplishment of its own views is, I conceive, much to be apprehended, and although I cannot give entire confidence to the accounts I have received of Mons Gudar's mission which even amount to his being charged with proposals to this darbar to engage with the French in the expected war with our nation, yet from the general language of Mons. Montigue and the suspicious activity of the French in despatching enmissaries at this time of the year to the different darbais, added to the well-known spirit of the intrigues in this country, give strong reason to think that they must have some extraordinary object in pursuit to which you may rest assured I shall pay the most vigilant attention. It cannot be supposed that Nanna from past experience and his present connections with the Company will hastily accede to any terms proposed by the French, though, were they in a condition to act up to their vaunts, powerful motives are not wanting to induce his lending a favourable ear to their offer.

Nanna has required time to prepare an answer to the Frenchman's letter and proposals in which he will be a good deal guided by Hurry Punt's counsels to whom I am told he has written on the occasion. Mons. M gives out that his new visitor has brought him some distinguishing mark of his sovereign's favour, the badge of which is to be fixed on his coat This, if true, must, I suppose, be the order of St. Louis.

I yesterday received a letter from Meer Mahd. Hassan Khan at Hyderabad in reply to one I wrote him advising his arrival at that Court and delivery of his presents and gracious reception by the prince. From another source I learn that the Nabob's mortification for the loss of Adoni has been greatly increased by the circumstance of his having but just before received information of the congratulatory offerings and compliments of his people on the relief of that place when Tippoo decamped on the allies first crossing the river. He did not assist as usual at the late religious ceremonies on the festival at the conclusion of the Ramzan. From that quarter I conceive you will now receive the earliest intelligence of Tippoo's motions. The Mahrattoes remained much in the same manner as last advised.

Though pursuant to the spirit of your instructions regarding Capt. Reynolds I am very desirous of furnishing him an opportunity of improving our geographical knowledge of Hindustan by dispatching him to Hyderabad or Nagpur, yet as I am apprehensive of giving the smallest ground for the jealousy or suspicion of these people of which they are exceedingly susceptible, I should be happy if you could furnish me any plausible pretence for the prosecution of this object.

I shall give Sir Archibald Campbell intelligence of the above motions of the French as a clue to his inquiries. Before Mr Bee left Tippoo's Camp Mons. Maurepas who commanded about 40 European Cavalry had resigned them to Mr. Lallée intending to return to Pondicherry Mr Lallée's party did not exceed 500 black and white and his influence in the army did not extend beyond the management of his own corps.

**No. 18**—In this letter to the Governor of Madras Malet requests information on the subject of an agent arriving at Poona from the Nabob of Carnatic.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—SIR ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

*Poona, 25 August 1786*

The enclosed extract of a letter from me to the Governor General requires no comment. My knowledge of the inimical intriguing spirit of the French teaches me that most minute motions are to be most vigilantly watched. Since the dispatch of my last packet to the Governor General I am informed that Monsr. Cudar is soon to leave this place on his return to Pondicherry and that the name of the person deputed to Tippoo's Durbar is Salvore. Much allowance is to be made for corruption of names by their coming to me through the channel of natives By the intelligence received of the French projects, true or false, this much is certain, that they are busily employed in counteracting our influence by industriously propagating pompous stories of their own power and designs. The knowledge of this may at least serve as a clue to direct your inquiries and to furnish me with such information as may enable me to baffle their intrigues at this Durbar.

In my public address is mentioned the report of the approach of a minister from the Nabob of the Carnatic to this court and my doubt of its veracity as not being mentioned in the letter of your Board, should such a minister had been appointed and dispatched hither, permit me Hon'ble Sir to recommend to your support my proposal relative to his acting in concert with me But should no such appointment have taken place and should the Nabob wish to have a regular account of the transactions of this Durbar and should he think proper to devolve this charge on me in the same manner that Mr. Anderson is entrusted with

the care of the Viziers' interests at the Court of the King and Mhadjee Sindea, I would cheerfully undertake it under the sanction of your approval and the licence of the Honourable the Governor General and Co.

In consequence of your public letter I have applied to Rago Punt for the money advanced him but he informs me he has received no cash to enable him to discharge my demand. I have some reason to think that the cipher No. 80 fell in the hands of Tippoo Sultaun with General Mathews and the garrison of Bednure.

**No. 19**—Malet expatiates on the French intrigue at Poona and reports his conversations with the Minister on that subject.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE HONOURABLE THE GOVERNOR GENERAL & CO.

*Poona, 8th September 1786.*

In<sup>†</sup> my address to the Governor General *via* Scindia's camp on the 21st ult. duplicate of which accompanys this, I had the honour to give you such information as I had received relative to a French gentleman lately arrived here and to assure you that I should continue to pay the most vigilant attention to the intrigues of that nation.

Judging that the intelligence I had received justified an immediate application to Government for explanation agreeable to the 13th article of the late treaty, on the 22nd instant I applied to Behro Punt for the purpose who assured me that he was totally ignorant of the circumstances I represented, but would inform himself of them. Having waited till the 24th without receiving any further intelligence from Behro Pandit I again applied to him expressing my surprise at his silence and more at his ignorance of the arrival of the person in question, his having had an audience of Nanna at which a letter was presented from the Governor of Pondicherry, after which he had a long private conference with Emrut Rao, all of which I observed did not perfectly accord with the stipulations of the late treaty.

During the course of my applications to Government for an explanation I did not omit endeavouring by such means as seemed best calculated for success to collect from the French the object and progress of their intrigues in the course of which I learned that Mons. Gudar and Mons. Montigne were both to leave Poona soon, the former to proceed directly to Pondicherry and to return before the expiration of four months; but I could learn nothing further of Mons. M.'s destination than that it was to a place whence his correspondence with France would be more prompt and secure than from hence and that he was to return to Poona before Mons. G. I had likewise a prospect of procuring copies of a former and the late treaty

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<sup>†</sup>The whole letter was despatched in cipher.



between the French and Peshwa Governments in which I was told there was a stipulation of a port in the dominions of the latter for the accommodation of the former. Through the same channel I learned that the person deputed to Tippoo's darbar was named Salvere and enjoyed the same powers formerly entrusted to Mr. Pirron, that the French gentlemen boasted much of their great force at Pondicherry and Mauritius, beside which there were 12,000 men ready for embarkation at Rooleron, which I conjecture to be L'Orient or Bodeaux, and that a war was on all occasions mentioned as certain and inevitable.

On the 27th I received a message from Behro Punt that he had seen and spoken to Nanna on the subject of my enquiries, whose reply he would communicate by message the next morning being too ill to wait on me. Thinking the business of importance, I visited him myself on the morning of the 28th, when he informed me that Nanna had told him that a French gentleman had come here by the way of Hyderabad and been introduced to him by Mons. M as a friend of his, that he had brought no letters, that his advices from Hyderabad mentioned this gentleman's having had one or two private audiences of Nizam Ally Khan but that the Prince's own letters only cursorily mentioned his arrival; that on his audience of Nanna he expressed a wish to see the Peshwa which Nanna had not thought proper to comply with; that in their meeting nothing of a private nature had passed, and as to their subsequent meeting with Emrut Rao it was merely in the course of civility, the French business now being transacted through him. Nanna added that he had found him a man of sense and as he was soon to return to Pondicherry he should ask my advice on some points he meant to communicate by him to that Government, that on asking the state of affairs at Pondicherry and Europe the Frenchman had told him that they were on good terms with the English.

Behro Punt having finished the substance of Nanna's communication, I begged to know if Mons. Montigne in his intercourse with the Darbar did not on all occasions endeavour to establish the certainty of an approaching war. He assured me that he did. I then observed that it was extraordinary that this gentleman should tell so different a story to Nanna, that it was still more extraordinary that a person should travel merely for pleasure from Pondicherry to Poona at this time of the year, and that such a person without even a letter or any plea of public business should be admitted to private audiences of Nanna and Nizam Ally. Behro Punt after having repeated his assurances of Nanna's having no intention of forming any connection with the French but that on the contrary prudence and inclination led him to decline it, asked my opinion of their forming a junction with Tippoo and commencing a new war in alliance with him. I assured him that I thought it by no means probable or that, if blinded by ambition and untaught by late and dear-bought experience they should again commit themselves with that Prince, it must end as before.

in their confusion, that he had been a witness of their late combined efforts against the Company which ended in mutual disgust and disappointment at a time when the British nation was at war not only with all India but with all the world. What then could they hope for against the British arms aided by the whole force of the Mahratta Empire when our finances were re-established and our forces multiplied? I remarked to him the precarious chimerical nature of a connection between people without possessions in Hindustan and a prince like Tippoo the existence of whose empire rested on his single person, and compared such a connection with the alliance of the company and the Mahrattas whose forces are infinitely superior in quality and number, whose resources are inexhaustible, and whose possessions are liable to no convulsion from so slight a contingency as the death of the Ruler.

From this subject Behro Punt removed to the old one of the late increase of the Company's military establishment, drawing the same conclusion of its being from apprehension of the French, while I accounted for it in the wisdom of the present administration and that happy financial system which enabled them, though resolved not to aggress, to provide as far as human prudence could against aggression, in which apprehension against any single particular Power had no particular influence, that with such finances, such territories, such a military force, and so wise a Government both at home and abroad, to direct its efforts to the grand objects of self-defence and the support of our allies, he might form a very probable judgment of the consequences to be expected from Tippoo's alliance with the French whose intrigues at the seasons most favourable to their operations have hitherto been attended with no other effect than to expose their weakness and malevolence

On the 30th instant I was present by invitation at the Peshwa's palace on the celebration of some ceremonies in honour of the idol Gunes at which Nanna assisted. Shortly after being seated he took an opportunity of telling me that Tippoo had crossed Tung Budra towards Shanoor\* at a place called Gurruk Naut† that since his crossing, an advantage has been gained by their troops in a skirmish and several horses taken and that on the last advices Tippoo was very strongly encamped with his rear to the river and that the main army under Hurry Punt was about 4 cos from him; that the fort of Bhadar-Bunda which he mentioned to be strong had lately surrendered to Hurry Punt, that his advices from Hyderabad mentioned the arrival of an English gentleman there of whose errand he asked me for information but I could give him none; that the French were joining Tippoo in small parties from Pondicherry and a French Vakul had arrived at Tippoo's camp. He observed that his agent at Pondicherry mentioned neither of the latter articles. He next remarked that I had sent him a message by Behro Punt regarding the French and

\* Savnur

† Gorakh-nath.

their negotiations here, and told me by no means to admit the smallest apprehensions on that account but to rest firmly assured of his faithful adherence to the late treaty with the Company.

I replied that though my confidence in his wisdom, experience and good faith relieved me from all apprehensions of partiality on his part to French intrigues, still the duty of my station made it incumbent on me to communicate to him what I might even be convinced was an empty rumour because as that rumour spread, it was necessary also to spread its refutation. He assured me he was pleased with the part I had taken as the only method of preserving sincere and uninterrupted friendship, and with some further general assurances dropped the subject and commenced an enquiry after Calcutta news and when I expected answers to my letters after taking of Badammee etc

Notwithstanding these assurances on the part of Nanna the intelligence I continued to receive from Mons. Montigne's was positive with respect to Mons. G's having delivered a letter to him and that he was entrusted with other important points of negotiation. Though I had received promises of being furnished with copies of two treaties, one of an old, the other of a later date between the Peshwa and French nation, on condition of receiving a very large sum of money, yet the nature of such a transaction rendering it impossible to discover or prevent fraud. I have not yet thought proper to comply with the terms demanded, though if I can by any means satisfy myself of the authenticity of such instruments I shall not hesitate paying very handsomely for them

Notwithstanding the suspicious circumstances of Mr. Gudar's journey at this time of the year, his audiences of the Nizam and Nanna, and the positive assurances I have received that the object of his journey is of a political nature with this Government, still I cannot conceive that a man of Nanna's wisdom and experience will precipitately become a convert to the solicitations or proposals of the French, yet so artfully and so industriously have they disseminated the idea of their power and resources in Europe that he is careful of breaking off all intercourse by flatly declining to hearken to their proposals.

I am also inclined to impute his attention to them to more distant and more important motives. That the Brahmins are strongly tinged with the ambition of extending their empire all over Hindustan in the person of the Peshwa I have scarce a doubt, that their progress has hitherto been checked in so grand a career may I believe be imputed to the mightiness of the British Power which still presents itself as an insurmountable obstacle, that readiness which the French have at all times manifested to enter the lists with us and that arrogance with which on all occasions they boast their superior extent of territory and power in Europe, naturally points them as the most proper instrument to combat our power, whenever it may be expedient to employ them. This object, though as already

observed a distant one, I do conceive to operate on this Government in its conduct with the French.

A persuasion prevails here that Nanna will find it difficult to evade the pressing solicitations of the Nizam to take the field after the Dasia, one month hence. Mogul Ally Khan and Musheer-ul-Mulk have left the army under Thowai Jung and are gone to Hyderabad.

From Tippo Sultan's decided movement across the Tung-Bhadra and the vicinity of the Mahratta Army we may reasonably expect some important news soon.

I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter from and my letter to the Madras Government and to remain etc.

**No. 20**—Malet reports departure from Poona of the Frenchman Gudar.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,  
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 9th September 1786.*

Mons. G. had his audience of leave of the minister on the 7th instant and I am told will depart for Pondicherry tomorrow. Such further particulars as I am able to cull regarding him and his nation shall be communicated as soon as possible. On crossing the Tung Budra an ineffectual opposition was made by parties of the Mahrattas while Hurry Punt was advancing with the main army which in my last letter I advised was encamped within 4 cos of Tippo Sultan. I am since told but cannot vouch for its truth that the Mahrattas have thought proper to retreat some distance from the enemy, that their army has much weakened by a very general sickness both of men and horses and that Tukaji Holkar is dangerously sick. I find that the advices from the army circulated by the Durbar are not always to be depended on and my intelligencer from the army finds much difficulty and hazard in sending me regular information.

**No. 21**—Malet writes to the Governor General his comments on Nana's dealings with the French and the progress of the Maratha war with Tipu.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,  
TO—THE HONOURABLE J. MACPHERSON, GOVERNOR GENERAL & CO.,  
CALCUTTA.

*Poona, 11th September 1786.*

On the 9th instant I had the honour to advise the Governor General *via* Benares of Mr. Gudar's having taken his leave of Nanna to return to

Pondicherry on the 7th instant. Immediately on hearing this I sent to Behro Pundit acquainting him that though I had heard that Mons G had taken his leave I could not give credit to the report from Nanna's former declaration that he meant to consult me on something he intended communicating to the Pondicherry Government through this traveller previous to his dispatch. Behro Punt replied that Nanna had told him to acquaint me that he had (in consequence of letters from Harry Punt mentioning that the French were negotiating with Tippoo) desired Mons G. to represent to the Governor of Pondicherry the impropriety of such negotiations and of the French giving any assistance to Tippoo Sultan.

Though this communication appears to be an evasion of Nanna's former intention of consulting me yet one point at least may be collected from the message, i.e., that he has received answers from Hurry Punt to those letters which under 21st ult. I advised had been written to that chieftain on the first arrival of Mons G. and on the receipt of which it should seem this gentleman's despatch has rested. At all events it would appear that from Mons. G's employment while here, which has been mostly at the desk, and from the style of his reception and dispatch that he is not the mere traveller which Nanna would have me believe, and if he really thinks him what he represented him to me, it seems still more extraordinary that he should employ the services of such a person vested by his own account with no public character to make remonstrance on the part of this darbar to the Governor of Pondicherry where a Mahratta vakeel resides,

Another Frenchman has lately supplied this Government with about 1200 French musquetts. Perhaps it would not be a bad market for the multitude of old ones, which are a constant source of expense in the Company's stores at the different presidencies. It will be objected that it may be arming them against ourselves, but I am of opinion that in a month or two they would be more useless than matchlocks.

In my address of the 9th to the Governor General I mentioned a report of the retreat of the Maratta Army which is not confirmed by my advices received this day in 10 days. They mention that the grand armies remain within 4 coss of each other in their former stations on the Tung Bhadra and that Hurry Pundit has been joined by Tookaji Holcar, that no action had happened since the enemy had crossed the river, that everything was excessive dear in the Marratta Camp, wheat 6 seers a rupee, 8 seers gram and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  seer Ghee, and that the complaint of sickness was very general through the army. Large supplies of money have been transmitted in specie to the army and about a lac worth of turbans, selas, Shauls and so forth are now despatched to be distributed on the approaching Dussera.

**No. 22.**—Malet explains the financial aspect of his office at Poona and requests being compensated for the losses he had to sustain by his transfer from Bombay.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—E. HAY, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL & CO.

*Poona, 15th September 1786.*

A train of unavoidable circumstances having thrown me greatly in arrears and involved my affairs in difficulties from which I see no prospect of extricating them but by the assistance of the Hon'ble the Governor General and Co and being averse to blending matters of this nature with the more important objects of my ministry I shall take the liberty of troubling them through you with a distinct representation of my pecuniary difficulties.

On the 20th of May I had the honour to receive your letter of 4th April acquainting me that the Hon'ble the Governor General and Co, had ordered the Buxey to account with Morronidas for my fixed monthly allowances and such contingencies as I might find it indispensably necessary to incur

Previous to the receipt of this advice, I had from the time of my arrival at Bombay in January to 3rd April last received for Bills on Calcutta a sum of Rupees 41,285-3-0. From that period the shroffs declined to furnish me any further supplies on my public bills on Calcutta. This resolution prevented my benefiting by the mode the Governor General had prescribed for the payment of my allowance and reimbursement of my expenses and forced me from that day to have recourse to my private credit for the support of myself and party.

On my representation of the distress I was likely to experience from this circumstance, the attention of Government was immediately directed to my relief and under 16 May I was advised by the Governor General and Co, Calcutta that Doarkydass had been desired to send his orders to his agent at Surat to advance such sums as I might require from him for the public service and under the 6th June you enclosed me a letter of credit from Doarkydass to his agent Nuggindass.

Immediately on receipt of this letter of credit I forwarded it with one from myself to Nuggindass who in reply assured me of his readiness to comply with the orders of his superiors

But before I could take advantage of it to remove the difficulties I have for some time experienced, your letter of 16th June advised me that by a new resolution of the Board I was to draw bills of exchange upon the Resident at Benares for such sums as I might require for my public expenses and that my personal allowances were to be paid at Calcutta by the Buxey to my attorneys in common with those of the other servants of the company.

Without loss of time I asked Nuggindas's Agent if he would accept bills on Benares instead of Calcutta for the sums his superior had directed him to advance me. He declined pleading want of power. I then wrote to Nuggindas who in his answer advised me that he must not only have a particular power from his superior on the subject but that the negotiation would be attended with great loss. Copy of his letter on the occasion I had the honour of forwarding in my address to the Board under the 11th instant, duplicate of which now proceeds. Apprehensive that Nuggindas might take advantage of not having a specific order from his superior relative to this line of negotiation to evade a compliance with my application, I wrote to Mr. Grant, the Resident of Benares, under 3rd instant to procure and send me as soon as possible a letter of credit from Gopaldas the Head of the House of Doarkydas who resides at Benares, but though such credit may be procured it cannot, agreeable to the letter of the advice communicated in your favour of 16th June, be in future extended to the amount of my fixed allowances.

When however the great expenses to which I have been subjected are considered, when it is recollected that I have not received a penny of my allowances since my first leaving Bombay in January 1785 when the large sums due to me by the Bombay Government for moncys actually advanced to their officers is adverted to, when I assure you upon my honour that since honoured with my present appointment, I have not only expended every rupee that I could collect of my private fortune but also contracted large debts and when from what I have said it shall appear that I have lost the benefit of the first orders of 4th April and 6th June not by neglect or inattention but by a succession of unavoidable disappointments, I am induced to flatter myself that even should the honourable board think proper to discontinue the future indulgence of receiving my fixed allowances through the house of Muraidas in Bombay, they will at least permit me for the re-establishment of my affairs to receive through that channel or through such as it can be most advantageously negotiated, the balance of my account to the end of August which I have now the honour to forward agreeable to the last orders and in which is included my fixed allowance from 7th December 1785 to that time. This request only implies an indulgence of 7 days as the order of 16th June did not reach me till the 24th of August.

Should the Hon'ble Board as above mentioned think proper to confine the future payment of my fixed allowances to Calcutta where I at present have no money transactions, I have written to my attorney Mr. C. Boddam to act accordingly and have to request you will furnish me with determination of the Honourable Board for the regulation of his conduct.

I have already had occasion in the course of this letter to mention the sums due to me by the Bombay Government the payment of which would

have been a great relief but as that matter is fully discussed in copy of my correspondence with the Bombay Government already forwarded to the Honourable the Governor General and Co, I shall add nothing here on that subject but my hopes of being speedily honoured with a decision.

In a letter devoted to the explanation of my pecuniary situation I cannot omit soliciting the indulgence of the Board to a reconsideration of that part of your official letter of the 4th April directing that my fixed allowances should commence "from the date of my credentials which was the 7th December 1785, that I had permission to draw to that time for the amount of allowances which I lost in leaving Bombay under orders to proceed to Calcutta which were to be certified by the proper officer at Bombay" Two days after the receipt of this letter I took the liberty of acquainting the Board in my public address of 22nd May that I should reply to the directions concerning my allowances as soon as possible and the same day applied to the Bombay Government for the certificate required. His letter in reply I have now the honour to enclose, which not reaching me till 22nd ultimo prevented an earlier address on the subject

When under the 8th February last I requested the instructions of the Honourable the Governor General and Co, relative to the period whence I was to draw my fixed allowances, I must confess that I had not the most distant idea that so wide a distinction would have arisen from the single circumstance of the delivery of my ultimate instructions especially as the most arduous part of my service was executed previous to that circumstance in a journey to Mhadjee Scindia's Camp "for the purpose of receiving complete instructions on the general line of my negotiations, of establishing a connected plan of correspondence with the company's minister at that Court and of avoiding both an opposition of influence and also the appearance of it, in our transactions with the two powers to which we bear a common relation as to the members of the same state but whose respective interests and views may occasionally lead them to different lines of policy in which without such a caution our agents might be involved". After such reasons assigned by the Honourable the Governor General and Co for my journey to Scindia's Camp in their letter to the Bombay Board of the 23rd of November 1784, it will not, I presume, appear extraordinary that I concluded myself during that journey not only invested with the character of a public minister but in the discharge of an important part of it agreeable to the Bombay Board's notification of their having complied with the request of the Governor General and Co., Calcutta, to employ my services as their minister at the Court of Poona, and that the Honourable the Governor General and Co. did not think very differently at the time they honoured me with my ultimate instructions, which circumstance now seems to constitute so material a difference will, I flatter myself, appear in the



preamble to them which runs thus " the season being now arrived at which it is proper that you should receive the instructions of this Government relative to the appointment to which you have been nominated as our Resident at the Court of Poona ", etc., etc

Strong as these arguments may appear in proof of the prior existence of my appointment I should not have taken up the time of the Honourable Board by recalling them to their recollection, could I not support my expectations in consequence thereof on pleas if possible still more powerful arising from the peculiar circumstances of my situation previous to my departure from Bombay and which I shall here do myself the honour of submitting to their consideration having in the meantime omitted all charge on this head in my accounts till honoured with their reply.

From the enclosed letter of Gover. of Bombay in answer to mine of the 22nd May the Honourable the Governor General and Co. will recollect that I was most eligibly situated under his immediate patronage, engaged in very promising and extensive commercial concerns and with a certainty of such future advantage as his friendship or the nature of the service could afford, to which I must be permitted to add, that this situation and these prospects were so flattering as to induce my preferring them to a seat at the Surat council and the Persian interpretership of that settlement which the Honourable the Court of Directors had thought proper to honour me with by special appointment

These however were not considerations to be put in competition with the honour I promised myself in the execution of the commands of the Government General Resigning therefore my posts and prospects and abandoning the care of my commercial affairs to a native agent which extended as owner or Freighter to a concern in eleven bottoms, I proceeded on my journey to Calcutta and to prevent all division of my attention in the important matters that I had to expect would be now entrusted to my charge, directed all my commercial concerns to be closed and my share in all vessels either as property or freight to be disposed of This was accordingly done during my absence and as you may suppose not without loss

It will I believe be readily admitted that the income of the company's servants from the company seldom constitutes the whole of their advantages, and though it may justly be remarked that the company's claim to the services of those servants supersedes all other consideration, yet must it at the same time be recollected that appointments of great dignity and responsibility are never meant to be attended with prejudice to the affairs of the person who shall be thought worthy of them. Were not this position self-evident, instances are not wanting in proof and it is with concern I find in my own person a single exception to a rule so very general that even my own assistant Mr Wilkinson during the time of his assistantship with me to his being put on the Bengal establishment

received not only the full allowances of that office but the emoluments of his posts at Surat

After a mature consideration of this state of my case should the Honourable the Governor General and Co still think the amount of my official allowance at Bombay which will appear from the enclosed letter, adequate to the character I had the honour to hold under their Government and a sufficient compensation for the advantages of the situation that I relinquished in pursuit of that honour, I shall endeavour to forget the loss I have sustained and the lucrative prospects I have sacrificed to a sense of duty and a hope of reputation. But, sir, I shall feel most sensibly the humiliating distinction which is thereby made, not only between me and many of my predecessors in the same line of service but between me and my own assistant.

I shall conclude this letter in which I have very reluctantly been led into great length with a request, that you will procure and transmit me as soon as possible the sentiments of the Honourable Board on the points contained in it

**No. 23**—The departure of the Frenchman Gudar and the progress of the Maratha War with Tipu are communicated to the Governor of Madras in this letter by Malet.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—SIR ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR, MADRAS.

*Poona, 17th September 1786*

I have the honour to enclose duplicate of my last address of the 25th ultimo

On the 7th inst Monsr Gudar took his leave of the Minister and on the 9th set off for Pondicherry. Notwithstanding the suspicious circumstances of his journey at this time of the year, his audience of Nizam on his way hither and meeting with Nana while here,—I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that I have received the most positive assurance from Nana of his steadfast adherence to the present engagements with the Company and that his intercourse with this gentleman has only extended to a message to be communicated through him to the Governor of Pondicherry on no account to assist Tippoo Sultan. For my own part though I cannot conceive that a man of Nanna's wisdom and experience will precipitately hearken to any new schemes or proposals of the French, yet so artfully and so industriously have they propagated the idea of their power and resources in Europe, that he will be cautious of stopping all intercourse with them by an abrupt refusal of hearkening to their proposals particularly at the present critical period. I have mentioned Mr Gudar's departure to you that you may take such steps as you may think proper to collect through your intelligence at Pondicherry the real object and success of his journey.

From the great distance of the contending armies to the north I think it probable that you will receive intelligence of their motions almost as soon as I can through the difficulties I meet with in getting at the truths which when not agreeable to the wishes of this Durbar is diligently concealed. I have not however let this consideration prevent my communicating such articles as I have been able to collect and for the authenticity of which I can pretty confidently vouch.

On the 17th ultimo the strong Fort of Bhadur Banda was surrendered to Hurry Punt. It is a complete fortification on a steeped rock of about a mile in circumference. A large detachment was left here to straiten Copal another very strong Fortress about 4 miles distant. Previous to the capture of Bhadur Banda news was received that the Pindharies and Van-guard of Tippoo's army had crossed the Tung-Bhudra in consequence of which a large party was detached on the 15th to oppose and harass them and on the intelligence of Tippoo's intending to cross with his whole army, Hurry Punt also moved on the 18th with the whole of the Mahratta Force, Badjee Punt Enna Bukshy being advanced with the van of the army consisting of about 20 thousand men. This appearance of opposition, however, did not prevent the execution of Tippoo's plan. He crossed the river about the 20th and encamped very advantageously with it in his rear, a small rivulet in his front, and strong ground on his flanks.

The Mahrattas who were encamped at about a distance of 4 coss marched towards the enemy's lines on the 22nd, and after having presented themselves ready for battle till 3 in the afternoon without any appearance of the enemy advancing during which they sustained some loss from the enemys' guns, they returned to their encampment. The armies remained in this state with daily skirmishes and distant cannonading till the 28th, when a successful attempt was made by a body of troops, horse and foot to surprise the advanced guard of the Mahratta army.

On the 30th the Mahrattas moved toward the enemy's left wing and Hurry Punt having ordered two guns on a small hill about a mile and a half from the advanced guard of that flank, cannonade was kept up at that distance for about 2 hours without any loss on the part of the Mahrattas. In the meantime a body of their horse fell with some of the enemy's foragers and took a 1,200 head of cattle and several prisoners after which the army returned to camp at about 4 in the afternoon. By the accounts of the prisoners taken by the Mahrattas it does not appear that Tippoo's army exceeds 30,000 horse and foot with about 50 or 60 pieces of cannon.

Boorhan-al-Deen is encamped at Missery Cote 12 coss from Shanooie with about 20,000 horse and foot and has the forests of Bednure in his rear. He has been constantly and actively opposed by Holcar and has lost many men both horse and foot by desertion; a reinforcement of

about 3,000 men has lately joined him from Bednure. There are about 20,000 of the Nizam's forces under the command of Tehwal Jung with the Mahratta army.

From the situation of the two armies we may hourly expect some important intelligence which I shall do myself the honour to communicate you. In the meantime I have to request you will favour me with the particulars of the French force at Pondicherry and such other intelligence relative to their settlements of Mauritius, Trincomale, etc. as you may think proper to communicate.

P.S.—When my last dispatches left the army it was reported that the reinforcement was on its march to join Tippoo.

**No. 24**—The Secret Committee instruct the G. G. not to engage in an offer of British assistance either to the Marathas or to Tipu, unless the French openly joined any of them. The various contingencies under which British military help can be offered to any Indian power are minutely discussed.

FROM—THE SECRET COMMITTEE,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Extract of a letter from the Secret Committee of the East India Company to the Governor General and Council in Bengal.*

*London, 22nd September 1786.*

The different particulars in the dispatches brought home by the Deptford will be answered by one of the early ships of this season together with every dispatch to which special answers have not already been made; but we cannot delay the earliest and most speedy method of expressing our disapprobation of the assurances which you have conveyed to the Peshwa and to Sindia and of the orders which you have given to the Bombay Government.

In our secret letter of the 21st July, we have in answer to the different questions you had proposed to us, given you our sentiments on the various contingencies which your questions suppose, and upon the receipt of that letter you will have observed that under such circumstances as your late dispatches set forth, it would have been our opinion that you ought to have gone no further than to intimate to the Mahrattas that in the event of the French joining Tippoo, they might rely on the assistance of our Troops, and to this we should have added an intimation that we would not have looked on with indifference to the Mahrattas entering into any engagements for obtaining assistance from the French, for we should consider such a connection as a hostile tendency to us which we should be obliged to counteract by affording our aid to Tippoo. If such a declaration had been made to the Mahrattas, we have not the least reason to suppose, that upon such terms the Mahrattas would have wished to avail themselves of any assistance which the French could

afford them. We have examined with the utmost attention the letter from Scindia which you received the 15th January and there is not a word in it which gives us reason to suppose that such a declaration would not have had the effect of preventing an alliance between the Mahrattas and the French. Indeed these were evidently your sentiments till you were induced to depart from them by the surmise of Tippoo's death.

In the first minute of the Governor General prepared before the reports reached you of Tippoo's death, the expectations of the Mahrattas are stated in the following terms "Their propositions are fair and reasonable They came to specific points They say assist us against Tippoo if the French assist him or oblige the French to be neuter We agree with your Governor General that the proposition was fair and reasonable, but you will advert that the Governor General's next minute makes the assurance of assistance general without any certainty that the French meant to offer or Tippoo to accept their assistance"

In the view we have of the measures, it directly tends to produce two bad consequences although it should not immediately engage us in hostilities In the first place it ascertains with precision to the French the only line of politics they can adopt if they mean to intrigue in India. It forces them to decide upon a connection with Tippoo, whereas formerly it appears they were kept under uncertainty how to fix their object of attention and under that uncertainty they endangered themselves with both the Mahrattas and Tippoo by incurring the imputation of duplicity to both. The other bad consequence is that it tends to indispose Tippoo and may be used by him as a pretence, at any moment he may feel it convenient, to act with hostility towards us

Under these circumstances we shall wait with impatience the arrival of your next dispatches and we are in hopes that either from the Mahrattas not making the demand or from the season of the year, the march of the detachment will not have actually taken place. If that should fortunately be the case, we are earnestly desirous that you should endeavour to extricate yourselves as far as possible from this embarrassment and revert to the plain and simple line of policy which we have laid down in our former dispatches Your principal attention must be to avoid shaking the friendship and confidence of the Mahrattas and at the same time to remove if possible any unfavourable impression which your assurances (if published) may have made upon Tippoo To him it will be sufficient to intimate that in conformity to your instructions from home you did not mean to send any detachment from Bombay to aid the Mahratta forces against him, because he has not called in any other European force into his assistance, which if he had, we should have considered as an act of hostility to us. With regard to the Mahrattas, it appears to us that the beforementioned letter from Scindia to the Governor General should be the foundation of your communication with that state, from the tenor of that letter we are persuaded that the assurance which we distinctly

repeat, of our being ready to assist the Mahrattas in case of a joint attack from Tippoo and the French, will be fully satisfactory to him. You should express our fullest approbation of the friendly and just intentions conveyed in the general tenor of that letter and at the same time you should explain that it can in no case be possible for us to adopt the idea he intimates in the conclusion, of the Mahrattas receiving aid from the French with our concurrence. Our determination to resist the introduction of any European Force into the contests of the Indian Princes will show him the impossibility of our listening to such a proposal, and the same reasons which would justify our acting against Tippoo if supported by the French, would equally decide us however reluctant to join Tippoo, against the Mahrattas, if the French should appear in favour of the latter, an event however, which our reliance in the friendship of the Mahrattas convinces us is in no respect to be apprehended.

What we have thus stated will put you fully in possession of our sentiments formed on the materials now before us. But various circumstances may have arisen of which we cannot now be apprized, which may affect the language to be held either to Tippoo or to the Mahrattas, and it will in that case be necessary for you to exercise your discretion on the spot as to the terms of your communication with either of these powers, as to the mode of executing our present instructions.

There are two possible cases to which we think it necessary particularly to advert. It may have happened that Tippoo although unsupported by French Troops is in actual hostilities against us, or he may have been joined by them in his attack against us or against the Mahrattas. In the first case we can only direct you to endeavour as soon as possible on any just and moderate terms to withdraw from the contest and to convince him of our intention to adhere to the system we have explained. In the second case (which we trust is the least probable) there is no other choice left but to pursue the line we have pointed out to you in our former dispatches as proper to be adopted on such an occasion, and by the most vigorous and effectual exertion on our part to counteract the efforts of France and prevent their gaining an ascendancy in India, which must be destructive of our interests in that country.

We have attended to the 45th, 47th paragraphs in your secret letter of the 28th February 1786 for Deptford, respecting the alarm entertained by our resident at Tellicherry from certain circumstances in the conduct of Tippoo Sultan. Upon this subject we can do no more than refer you to what we stated in our last secret despatch of the 21st July, and the intelligence last received tends again to confirm us in the proposition of a military force being always stationed at Tellicherry, but we need scarce observe to you that if you adopt that measure the officer serving there should be one on whose abilities, discretion and integrity you have the most perfect reliance.

**No. 25**—The Court of Directors countermand the British regiments promised to the Marathas.

**FROM—MEMBERS OF THE SECRET COMMITTEE,  
TO—THE GOVERNOR & COUNCIL OF BOMBAY.**

*East India House, London, 22nd September 1786*

1. We have your letter of the 15th of April last received overland by which you inform us of the orders you had received from the Government General of Bengal to supply the Mahrattas with a certain proportion of the force upon your establishment upon being required by them for the defence of the Peshwa and his territories

2 The enclosed extract of a secret letter to the Government of Bengal will show you what are our sentiments upon that measure, and we transmit them to you for the purpose of directing your conduct till you receive further instructions from Bengal You are to obey whatever orders you receive from them, but in the meantime you will act upon the sentiments entertained by us, and therefore if the detachment has not yet marched you will prevent it from doing so or if it has marched you will recall it except in the case of Tippoo having marched in conjunction with a French Force against the Mahrattas. In that event our Troops must continue to act in co-operation with the Mahrattas.

3 When we thus direct you to recall our Troops, we think it necessary to limit the order by this caution that it must not be done to prejudice the Mahrattas by any abrupt separation of our force from theirs if upon the faith of the assurances given by our Government General, they have taken any important measures. But in exercising your discretion upon such a contingency you will have it in view that we are extremely anxious that our troops should not be involved in any military enterprise

4. Our letter to the Government General of Bengal has likewise adverted to another case that of Tippoo having been led to engage though unsupported by French Troops in actual hostilities against us. In such case you will attend to the instructions we have given to the Government of Bengal.

5. You will lose no time in forwarding to Mr. Malet a copy of this letter and the enclosure with directions to him to act in consequence of them, and the tenor of our letter to the Government General will guide him as to the terms of the communication he is to hold with the Mahrattas.

6 Before this time you have received our letter as to the force to be kept up upon your establishment and we trust that such a distribution has been made of it as to have removed your apprehension relative to Tellicherry.

We are,

Your loving friends,

(Signed) John Michie,

(Signed) John Moteaux,

(Signed) John Manship.

**No. 26**—Malet conveys news of fighting between the Marathas and Tipu and offers congratulations to Lord Cornwallis on his arrival as Governor General

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE HON'BLE JOHN MACHPIERSON, GOVERNOR GENERAL, CALCUTTA.

*Poona, 9th October 1786*

I had the honour to address you last under the 30th ultimo duplicate of which is enclosed

Since that time the receipt of intelligence has been rendered more uncertain by the near neighbourhood of the hostile armies, and the intervention of some of the enemy's forts

On the 8th instant I was informed that about ten days before Tippoo had again attempted to surprise the Mahratta army near Shanooi; that he drove their advanced guard precipitately into their camp, and that the action continued with various success till late the ensuing day, when both armies returned to their respective camps. It is rumoured in town that Tippoo's forces had greatly the advantage, and that many of the Mahrattas fell in the action, amongst whom are some chiefs of consequence.

Being desirous of gaining the particulars of this action, I have delayed despatching this letter till this day, but either nothing very material has happened, or so carefully is it suppressed that no particulars that I can depend upon have come to my knowledge

Hearing therefore that a ship is on the eve of departure from Bombay to Calcutta and desirous of securing so good an opportunity, I dispatch this express to Governor Boddam to be forwarded by him, and should any material consequences follow this action, shall communicate them as expeditiously as possible

I am a good deal alarmed at the long absence of some of my Hircarras that have been dispatched to Benares, some of them so long ago as the 14th of July.

I had written thus far when one of my Hircarras brought me the two enclosed letters from the army, by which I am happy to convey to you the particulars of the late action, from which I think it is pretty clear that Tippoo had greatly the advantage, which will probably be followed with the reduction of Shanoor, the Nabob of which has incurred Tippoo's displeasure by siding with the Mahrattas.

Nanna has frequent conferences with the Vackeel of Nizam-al-Dowla on the subject of their taking the field, which point is not yet settled.

Having learnt Lord Cornwallis's arrival at Madras and conceiving he must ere this have reached Calcutta I have taken this liberty to enclose a letter to him, containing my congratulations on his arrival, and a request to be honoured with his commands. Permit me, Hon'ble Sir, to request your good offices in my behalf with his Lordship, particularly



in procuring the confirmation of Mr. Uhthoff as my assistant, should Mr. Wilkinson resign

In my situation, the great importance of having a gentleman of my own choice, the experience I had had of Mr. Uhthoff's diligence and ability, and the frequent proofs I have had of your attention to my requests, give me reason to hope you will procure a compliance with my present one which I shall be happy to add to the number of favours already conferred on.

**No. 27**—This is a story of some English deserters, which is typical of the conditions then existing about securing such political offenders.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—R. H. BODDAM, GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY

*Poona, 15th October 1786*

On the 13th instant I was favoured with a letter from Mr. Sandiford written by your direction advising the desertion of ten Europeans and desiring my endeavours to apprehend and send them back to Bombay. I had that day, in consequence of a little indisposition and for the benefit of change of air moved to a tent pitched about 8 miles from Poona Mr S's letter therefore was sent by a waiter I had left in town accompanied by one from himself advising that five Europeans had that day come to my house in town in a miserable plight to whom he had given money for provisions on their applying to be conveyed to Bombay, having escaped from confinement at Mangalore. It immediately occurred to me they might be some of the party from Bombay, and I directly dispatched an answer with directions to put them under a guard and at the same time ordered Noor-ul-Deen Hussein Khan to make the requisite applications to the Durbar for the apprehension of the others agreeable to the last article of the additional Treaty of Salbyhe But fearful of the delays which generally attend all business here, I went to town myself the ensuing evening. On the 15th in the morning I sent for the five Europeans I had ordered to be confined, and on asking who they were and whence they came, they frankly confessed that they had deserted from Bombay and now surrendered themselves to me, in hope of experiencing mercy and forgiveness of a crime into which they had been seduced while in liquor, and when they found themselves on the continent, they could not get back to Bombay again, tho' the Maratta Amildar of Oodin near Choul readily gave them a pass to proceed to Poona which they produced to me. The story they had told my waiter, they assured me, was to secure a more ready admission till they could see me Their names are George Eynon, 5th Compy., Benjamin Dimmock, 5th, James Nouls, 5th, Thomas Coppin, 2nd, Charles Sawyer, Seaman of the Bombay Grab. I immediately remanded them into confinement

and sent to the Durbar for passes to send them back to Bombay, observing that it was very extraordinary our deserters should find so easy a passage to Poona and even be assisted with passes by the Maratha Amildars when I found difficulty in procuring passes for individuals in my service to come and go.

I had scarce dismissed these people, who declared they knew nothing of Fitz Simmons mentioned in Mr Sandiford's letter, when I received intelligence that 7 Europeans, one in a Sergeant's coat, the other six in the Bombay Regimental and three of them with firelocks, had that morning entered Poona from the Bombay side, I immediately sent a Jammadar with proper people to find them out and mark the place they stopt at. This they effected but the Jammadar imprudently alarmed them by speaking to and asking them to come to me Apprehensive lest this might induce them to secret themselves I ordered six sepoy to proceed with a proper person to Behro Punt, acquainted him with the circumstances and told him I had sent six sepoy to prevent the deserters escaping till he should take proper measures to apprehend them He approved my proposal and sent a Hircarrah with my people with directions to desire them to go to Nanna's, which, should they refuse, my people were still to watch and prevent their escaping Soon after the person at whose house they had stopt (Portuguese Leader of some of these Renegadoes) and who has refused to go to Nanna's on the summons of Behro Punt's Hircarrah, took them with him to the house of his superior, my people still following and keeping them in sight On the return of the person I had sent to Behro Punt informing me the steps that were taken, I immediately sent him back again to tell Behro Punt that I should now recall my people as he was well acquainted with the arrival of the deserters in question and that I should now look to Government for their delivery. Not receiving an answer for upwards of two hours to this message, I began to grow uneasy as I had learnt that the people at the house where they had last carried the deserters, showed a disposition to enter into a dispute with the people I had sent to watch them. About the same time I received a message from the people I had sent to Behro Punt that he was asleep, and tho' they had urgently pressed his people to awaken him, they could not prevail. Fearful therefore of my six sepoy being insulted tho' I had sent them with Behro Punt's knowledge and approval and concluding their presence could no longer be instrumental in securing the deserters, I sent for them back and shortly after about half past 2 p.m. received a message from Behro Punt who had risen from sleep, that he would take the requisite steps for securing the delinquents and desiring me to recall my people, which I had previously done and who on their return acquainted me that before they left the house, the deserters had been carried away in company with some armed men, and when they attempted to follow and watch them as before, they were stopt by another body in the street in consequence

of which, having no directions to use force, they had not proceeded, at which time my orders recalling them had arrived, and they could give no account of the deserters after their leaving the last house

On a full consideration of these circumstances your application and the evil consequences of suffering so large a desertion to pass unnoticed, I directed Nooral-Deen Hussein Khan to make a formal demand of the deserters in question who had left Bombay with their Regimentals and some with their arms I directed them to support this demand on the last article of the additional treaty of Salbyhe, and to strengthen it made him acquainted with precedents in point between Mhadjee Sindia and Mr. Anderson which had come to my knowledge, I at the same time instructed him to gain orders to Amildars between this and Bombay to apprehend and send either here or to that place all people of this description, instead of facilitating their progress and thereby promoting desertion in breach of the late treaty and to the prejudice of the present harmony and good understanding between the two Governments.

I expect an answer to this demand tomorrow. If it is complied with I shall send the whole party down in irons as soon as possible; if not, I shall send off the five that surrendered themselves to Mr. Whitehill at Carranjah and advise you of the particulars of the answer I receive from the Durbar

On the arrival of these deserters at Bombay, I should imagine they might be made the instruments of detecting the boatmen that conveyed and the emissaries that inticed them off, a severe example of whom might, I should imagine, prevent others from decoying away and subjecting to capital punishment these poor ignorant wretches I think also that a letter to the Peshwa desiring that agreeable to the treaty no persons of this description may be admitted in the Marratta territories and that the Amildars be forbid suffering them to land, might be attended with good consequences, which might also be strongly insisted on with the Marratta Agent at Bombay.

P S The detachment will be much obliged to . . . for their clothing as soon as possible. They are very ragged and will probably be obliged to take field soon.

No. 28—The routes and time required for conveying despatches from Poona to Calcutta are herein explained.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 28th October 1786.*

With respect to the intelligence you desire of the most expeditious mode of conveying dispatches between Calcutta and Poona, I have to acquaint you that the journey from hence to Benares by the route of Burhanpore and Sagur can be performed in twenty days, and that I have

reason to think the cossids could get there in a shorter time by the way of Nagpore and Rewan, but they may meet with obstructions on the road from the disturbance at present in that part of the country. The cossids go from Poona to Muttra in twenty days and from thence to Calcutta in twelve. The advices that I have hitherto received from Masulipatam have been a long time on the road, but I believe that the communication between that place and Poona may be established in twenty-two days

**No. 29**—Malet requests instructions about the English deserters remaining at large in Poona

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—RAWSON HAFT BODDAM, GOVERNOR AT BOMBAY.

*Poona, 25th October 1786*

I had the honor to address you under the 23rd instant. The Divaly holidays being over Nooral-Deen-Hussein Khan had a meeting with Nana yesterday on the subject of the deserters and having satisfactorily explained the methods I had taken for their recovery, demanded them in my name agreeable to an application made to me by the Governor of Bombay and conformable to the letter of the treaty now subsisting. No hesitation was made to the propriety of the demand, but Nana observed that as the specification respecting fugitives, etc, was included in a treaty of a later date than that of Sulbyhe, the contents of it had not been promulgated as those of the former had, to the officers of this Government which circumstances, added to that of no demand of the kind having been made since the conclusion of the treaty, had not only caused the admission of these deserters by the Marratta Amildars on the coast, but would carry every humiliating appearance, should they be now surrendered. He therefore begged that nothing more might be said about these people and that he would take proper steps in future to prevent their being admitted by any of the Marratta Amildars, but that if the demand was insisted on, he also had a number of the same kind to make. An application was next made for a pass for the five Europeans that had surrendered, to which Nanna replied in such a manner as to give reason to conclude that he did not think their surrendering had been voluntary and on being pressed for their dustuck, observed that he should settle the business of the whole at once, I have thought it necessary to make you acquainted with these points and to request your immediate answer whether you mean or not to insist on your demand. In the meantime I shall not deliver the letter I expect from you to the Peshwa on the subject, since it would render it more difficult to retreat. I know not what Nanna means by his hint of having demands of this kind also to settle any further than to let us see plainly that he means as long as possible to avoid

surrendery of the deserters by resting it on contingencies in which if he thinks proper, I suppose he may involve half the people of Bombay and we by the same rule half the inhabitants of Poona, where there are vast numbers of emigrants from Surat. I cannot help thinking that the desertion of soldiers actually receiving pay and engaged to the Company for a certain term and on whose due and faithful observance of their engagements the Company's existence in some measure rests, and that desertion with their arms, clothes and accoutrements, forms a very different predicament from the constant and usual migration of all neighbouring people in pursuit of a livelihood

But as on these points you are the best judge, so shall I hope your specifick instructions both regarding the last seven deserters still in this place, and the former five now under confinement in my guard.

I hear the former are running about the town and getting drunk where they can, and that they have already sold the three musquitts they brought here. I shall apply to Government to have them confined till the receipt of your answer, that if they are suffered to remain, it may at least appear to be with permission and if the demand is continued they may be deprived of all excuse of their having been suffered to go off thro' inadvertence.

**No. 30—**Malet presents a very lucid review of the political situation of the British in India and points out how best the British can profit by it.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—LORD CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL, CALCUTTA.

*Poona, 3rd November 1786.*

My Lord,

I have the honour of troubling you with this address on the authority of the Calcutta Gazette from which I have just had the pleasure to learn your safe arrival in that city. My next respects will I hope be in reply to your Lordships own commands. Exclusive of my official relations to Government, I am further encouraged to hope this honor by letter from my brother-in-law Colonel Dansey flattering me with a prospect of being honored with some share of your Lordships attention. It shall at least be my study to deserve this.

In a short letter address of the 9th ultimo I had the pleasure to congratulate your Lordship's presumed arrival at Calcutta and to solicit your permission to repeat my respects. If in anticipating its arrival I err, it is at least from a principle of duty and your Lordship I trust will pardon me.

Tho' the public records undoubtedly contain the fullest and most circumstantial account of my present employment as also a minute description of my negotiations and of the state of the belligerent powers

since my arrival here, yet amidst the multitude of new and important objects of attention with which Your Lordship must necessarily be surrounded, a short sketch of what forms so interesting a scene may not be unacceptable

The period at which I had the honour to be entrusted with the care of the Hon. Company's interests at this Court was critical and the objects entrusted to my charge were of the utmost importance, resting principally on conciliating the affections of a people that had been alienated by a long and destructive war, and counteracting the operations of the intrigues of our rivals the French, who with their characteristic arts and activity were endeavouring to insinuate themselves and their influence into the councils and operations of the three great southern powers I flatter myself that I have not been altogether unsuccessful in my endeavours to counteract their designs at this court, nor if I may judge from the attention with which I have hitherto been treated by the Peshwa and his Minister, has my presence been prejudicial to the reestablishment of the ancient cordiality, at the same time that I have been as observant as the delicacy of my situation and the jealousy of this Government will permit, of its late and present motions and its probable future views.

It is probable that previous to Your Lordship's leaving England the judgment of administrators and the opinion of the Court of Directors had not been formed on the important positions contained in the late Governor General's minute of December 7, 1785, on the second of which rests the important point now depending on the application of this Government for aid against its enemy Tippoo Sultan, a determination on which they anxiously expect and which is involved in much difficulty.

The ostensible advantages of joining the Mahrattas are : 1st, conciliating the friendship of that mighty empire ; 2nd, relieving ourselves from the immediate expense of a large body of troops ; 3rd, removing all apprehension of the introduction of the French ; 4th, gaining such additional security to our present possessions as the present state of the Mahratta power and connections with the King, may point out as requisite to obviate all future claims and pretensions ; 5th, if not incompatible with the present fundamental principles of action, gaining such additional territory as may be deemed requisite for the further convenience or security of the Company's present possessions, 6th, the reduction of Tippoo Sultan's power so low as to prevent any future hostile designs against the Company's territories

The probable evils are . 1st, the danger of adding too greatly to the Mahratta power by fixing its ascendancy over Tippoo ; 2nd, the probability that even so great a service would not fix the regard of a people who have suffered so much from us, whose ambition knows no bounds, whose rapacity is insatiable, and whose Government is fluctuating ; 3rd, the possibility that even the knowledge of such aid being certainly to be

granted would so far operate in their favour as to enable them to make an advantageous peace with Tippoo, by which this Ministry would be relieved from the embarrassment of a burthensome war and be enabled to apply their whole efforts to the internal regulation of their empire which is at present much deranged, 4th, the certainty that if an apprehension of our aiding the Mahiattas were to operate on Tippoo to make a peace contrary to his will or prejudicial to his interests, he would endeavour to revenge on us such a force on his inclinations (sic ?), 5th, the great reason there is to conclude that unless certain assignments of strongholds and revenue were previously made for the security and payment of troops sent to their assistance, the expense would ultimately fall on the Company and instead of assisting tend only to embarrass their affairs

As there is very little probability of the question of aiding Tippoo being agitated, I shall without adverting to it trouble Your Lordship with what has occurred to me on the remaining situations of neutrality and mediation

The advantages of neutrality are obvious and important : 1st, gaining time to reestablish the Company's affairs by a rigid system of economy : 2nd, seeing the powers in India of whom we have reason to be apprehensive exhausting their strength and incapacitating themselves from molesting us These, could they be secured, are advantages of the greatest magnitude and most devoutly to be wished for. But they are counterbalanced on the other side 1st, by the consequences of disappointment to the Poona Ministry, 2nd, danger of their recommencing their negotiations with the French which, however unlikely, is still to be apprehended from Nanna's ancient predilection for that nation, its present desperate state in India, and well-known readiness to enter into any schemes for humbling our power and elevating its own ; 3rd, the probability that such a connection with the French would be ruinous to the Company's affairs, would give the Mahrattas a superiority over Tippoo, and enable the Ministry to reestablish its authority in full force over all the great chieftains of the empire whose independence it is our interest to countenance as far as possible consistent with the faith of treaties ; 4th, the probability that the Ministry despairing of our aid and not having sufficient confidence in the French to form a connection with them and their being deprived of all prospect of gaining any further advantage over Tippoo, may accommodate matters with him the terms of which may be hostile to us

I am conscious, My Lord, that in some of the predicaments here adduced is implied a supposition rather derogatory to the good faith of the Mahrattas by conceiving them incapable of so far forgetting the subsisting treaty and our liberty and independence as to think of resenting a disappointment arising from our persevering in a neutrality to which we have an undoubted right, but My Lord, I must be understood to be

speaking of people who measure right only by will and by their power of gratifying it

Mediation, My Lord, is the only line that remains to be discussed, in which could Scindia be brought heartily to cooperate, and his interest strongly dictates so to do, I imagine it would be cheerfully accepted by this Ministry and Nizam Ally Khan, but from my ignorance of the footing we are on with Tippoo Sultan, I cannot pretend even to conjecture how such a proposal would be received by him or how far Your Lordship in conjunction with all the remaining powers of India might think it proper to use coercive measures. In mentioning the remaining powers I must be understood to advert to a previous combination entered into with the King, the Peshwa, Nizam Ally Khan, Moodajee Bhosla, Mahadjee Scindia, Mohamed Ally Khan and Asaph-al-Dowla.

But, My Lord, should the idea of mediation yield to the hope of the continuance of these present hostilities and to the policy of suffering the contesting powers to exhaust each other's force, or should it be deemed inexpedient as involving us too deeply in the maze of Indian politics, which, from the rank the British power now holds amongst the princes of Hindustan, I conceive it in some measure almost impossible to avoid, and should the idea of assisting either party be relinquished as equally impolitic, the line of neutrality alone remains for adoption, and Your Lordship's wisdom will dictate the methods by which it may be most advantageously employed to the establishment of such a system both civil and military, as may place us above all foreign hopes and fears. Amidst those important arrangements I cannot help from local observation and careful attention to actual events, soliciting Your Lordship's particular attention to the strength of the military establishment on the coast of Malabar where only the Mahrattas and Tippoo Sultan are exposed to the effects of offensive measures

The operation of a force in that quarter has been already experienced as far as relates to Tippoo in the preservation of the Carnatak, and it is equally notorious that very small armaments from Bombay engaged the attention and employed the whole force of the Mahratta empire and which, joined by a detachment from Bengal dismembered from it the rich and extensive provinces of Gujerat and Cokun.

It is with the highest pleasure that by advices just received from Bombay via Bussora, I find myself enabled to congratulate your Lordship on the new and honourable mark of our sovereign's favor in being elected to fill a vacancy in the most noble order of the Garter

By letters from Hyderabad I am informed that the Nizam is busy in making new levies. The Military Chiefs of this Government that have not hitherto been employed have also received orders to keep themselves in readiness to take the field. Futty Sing has been frequently



summoned to join the army in person but as hitherto thought proper to decline compliance. The ministers are consequently much dissatisfied with his conduct

**No. 31**—European situation between France and England and means of speedy communication between Poona and Madras are topics discussed by Malet in this letter.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

*Poona, 3rd November 1786*

I have received very good intelligence that the Frenchman deputed by the Pondicherry Government to Tippoo mentioned by me in a former letter by the name of Salvere, was called Moreaux, that he arrived in August and returned on September 2, that during his residence in Tippoo's army he industriously propagated the same stories of an approaching war with the English which have been circulated here, and since he left, a persuasion has prevailed that that prince is soon to be joined by a large reinforcement of the French. And so industrious have the French emissaries been in propagating this belief that notwithstanding my former assurances to the Durbar, the positive advices received from all quarters have so far awakened their apprehensions as to induce them again to call on me for an account of the present state of affairs between Great Britain and France and of the French forces in this country. Fortunately your favour of the 29th September which reached me the 25th of October arrived very apropos to aid me in giving them a very full and explicit answer and I flatter myself that Nana is now almost as much convinced as I am that the French affairs in India are in a state from which neither much is to be hoped or feared.

Well knowing the importance of a safe and speedy communication between all the members of a body politic, it has been a principal object of my attention since my arrival here to establish an expeditious intercourse with Calcutta and Madras but hitherto with very little success. I had flattered myself with getting my letters to Calcutta by Benares in 25 days, but disputes that have lately arisen between the Rajah of Nagpore and the Government of Bundelcund have rendered that route impracticable or too precarious to be attempted. The conveyance through Mr Anderson by Mhadjee Scindia's Camp though so exceedingly out of the way is by a dawk being established from Scindia's Camp to Lucknow in 3 and thence to Calcutta in 9 days, effected from hence with a reasonable degree of certainty in 32 days. None of my letters from Calcutta by the way of Musulipatam have come in less than 6 weeks, nor from Madras in less than 25 days. I do not conceive that any of mine have been more

expeditious. Being concerned that this cannot proceed from the distance but must be owing to the badness of the cossids, I shall dispatch this to Mr Floyer at Musulipatam by a pair of good Hircarrahs with big nam and whence I may be able to form a judgment of the time in which the journey is practicable

This will appear the more extraordinary when I acquaint you, that I have every good reason to think that I could so arrange a dawk to Musulipatam as to perform the journey from hence in 7 days. From thence I am informed dawks are regularly laid to Calcutta and Madras. The former I presume cannot exceed 12 days and the latter of course very much less. From hence to Bombay the same dawk may be continued and the journey be effected in one day. I know not the state of the Bombay communication with the other Presidencies, but I have reason to think it cannot be quicker than mine of 32 days, which you will observe is the most expeditious of those I have tried with any degree of certainty.

But from what I have here had the honour to state it should follow that by a dawk from this place, the three Presidencies may be united in regular safe and quick correspondence by which the conveyance even from Bombay to Calcutta will be effected in 20 days, consequently in less to Madras. When it is considered that even by sea at the proper season the passage is seldom effected quicker and when the great expense to which the country is now subjected by the correspondence through long and uncertain channels between Bombay and the other two Presidencies is adverted to, I am induced to think my idea will be deemed worthy the attention of Government, and in this presumption have thought proper to submit it to your consideration. I have mentioned it to Nanna as a matter I wish to effect merely for the purpose of expediting my communication on the business of my negotiations here, and he assures me he had no objection and has since informed me he has written Nizam-al-Doula on the subject, but I shall take no further steps till honoured with your commands

Large sums of money have already been remitted to Hurry Punt and the attention of the ministry continues principally taken up with this important object. The nature of the war is repugnant to the genius of the Mahrattas and to the policy of the Brahmin Government. The former rather delights in a predatory than a defensive war, and the latter studies to employ its armies in expeditions where they can be gratified at the enemies' expense. In the army the leaders account for their late backwardness by assuring the troops that they only wait for the arrival of Nizam-al-Doula and Nanna with a large reinforcement, when they will immediately march against and chastize the enemy, but at present I have no great reason to think either of them will take the field

**No. 32**—Malet discusses, in continuation of his review of the political situation in his last letter, which of the two powers, the Marathas and Tipu, would be more dangerous to the Co's interests. He also reports his plan of writing a history of the Maratha Empire.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—LORD CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 8th November 1786.*

My Lord,

I had the honour to address your Lordship last under the 3d instant via Masulipatam and having this day received a packet from Governor Boddam with advice of its containing Europe letters for your Lordship and a desire to forward it as soon as possible, I (shall) embrace the opportunity of troubling you with a few words on what further has occurred in the course of my reflections on the important subject treated of in my last.

It is difficult to say, My Lord, whether an entire ascendancy of the Mahrattas or Tippoo Sultan would be most dangerous to the Company's interests. Everything within the compass of their ability is to be apprehended from the predominance of the power of either. Tippoo borders on the Carnatak and has a large tract of coast for the admission of a European ally on the coast of Malabar. The Mahrattas skirt almost the whole of the Company's and their ally Asoph-ul-Doula's frontier toward Bengal, Behar, Oudh, and the Doab, and also possess convenient ports in the neighbourhood of Bombay for the admission and reception of European aid.

Tippoo is prompted to conquest by the ambition of a despot and the wild enthusiasm of a bigot supported by a consciousness of superior military talents founded on frequent success.

The Mahrattas are urged to depredation by the restless rapacious spirit of every chieftain of which their armies are composed, and by the interest of every Brahmin administration to keep that spirit constantly employed.

Tippoo undoubtedly looks back to his failure in the total conquest of the Karnatak with mortification and regret mixed with the jealousy inseparable from a consciousness of having injured us.

The Mahrattas have been and are still too much hampered in their views of conquest and depredation by the British power to be very scrupulous of using any acquisition of strength on their part to the reduction of ours.

The one, an absolute despotism resting solely on the person of the despot and at present enjoying every superiority which that species of Government possesses over all others when directed by superior talents but equally liable to sudden depression by the death of the Prince and by a feeble succession.

The other an immense aristocracy the permanence of which, though liable to many accidents is more certain and its progress to power, though not so rapid, more sure, because the component parts by a participation of goods are more interested in its existence and aggrandisement

It is not, My Lord, amongst the powers of India that we must look for nicely arranged systems of perspective policy, but My Lord certain causes tend invariably to produce certain effects, so in judging the genius of the Brahmin Government and the power of the Mahatta chieftains and the state of society among them, as probable a conclusion may be formed of the operation of this complicated body, as can arise from a close observation of the character of the prince which in a despotism is the source and origin of all action.

At the same time, My Lord, that I have presumed to trouble you with such ideas as have occurred on these points, I am not ignorant that a much clearer judgment may be formed from a plain statement of facts. In this persuasion I am now busied in preparing an epitome of the History of the Mahratta Empire from its foundation to the present time, comprising a period of about 130 years. But as the most summary execution of such an intention necessarily implies matter exceeding the bounds of a letter, I shall wait Your Lordship's permission for troubling you with it, also with my itinerary from Surat to Bengal, and from Bombay to Buddamee, including a journey to the north and southern frontier of the Mahratta Empire. In hopes of its proving a quicker channel I despatch this by the way of Massulipatam but I shall send you duplicate of my public address through Mr Anderson at Mahadjee Sindia's camp

Since my last respects I have received no news from the army. Reports are strong that it is greatly distressed for everything.

This Durbar is exceedingly solicitous for the decision of your Government on their application for assistance

**No. 33**—This extract mentions how Malet executed the delicate task of communicating the G. G.'s decision to the Minister, refusing to grant them military help.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL, CALCUTTA,

TO—THE HON'BLE SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE HON'BLE COURT OF DIRECTORS.

*Calcutta, 11th November 1786*

*Extract of a General Letter from the Governor General in Council to the Honourable Secret Committee of the Honourable Court of Directors*

Par 12th Lord Cornwallis's letter to the Peshwa will be sent together with that proposed for Mr. Malet, the Resident at Poona, in which His Lordship states his objections generally to the measure of granting assistance to the Mahrattah State, and directs him to deliver the Peshwa's

letter in a proper manner by the earliest opportunity. Lord Cornwallis directed Mr. Malet to accompany it with a declaration in the most civil terms, that having the most friendly disposition towards the Peshwa and the Mahratta State and the highest esteem for Nana Furnaveeze, it had given His Lordship the utmost pain to find himself under the necessity of commencing his administration with a measure, upon which it was possible to put any other construction, but that he could allow no consideration to operate with him in competition with the preservation of the faith of Treaties and obedience to the laws of his country. His Lordship was sensible that Mr. Malet would have a delicate part to act on this critical occasion, but from his abilities and address great hopes were entertained that he would be able to make the communication without occasioning a breach of the friendly intercourse between the two Governments. Mr. Malet was desired to add any other expedients that might occur to himself towards smoothing a matter, probably in itself disagreeable, that from the high opinion we had of the power of the Mahratta Empire, we could not bring ourselves to believe that they had any serious danger to apprehend from such an enemy as Tippoo, and if they had, the feeble and restricted aid that was offered could render them but little service. But should such danger arise from the interference of any European power against them, this Government would be ready to consider how far it could then venture to take rigorous and effectual steps for their protection and support. Such an assurance, might tend to soften the disappointment of the Mahratta Government, if they really suffered any on receiving Mr. Malet's other communications, and at the same time that it provided for the possible event of a necessity for fulfilling it, it was too general to subject us in the least to a charge of a breach of faith if that necessity should not arise.

[A true extract],

(Signed) E. HAY,

Secretary to the Government.

**No. 34**—Malet sends intimation of the Governor General's letter having been delivered to the Peshwa.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—E. HAY, SECRETARY, CALCUTTA.

*Poona, 23d November 1786.*

On the 17th November I had the honour to receive the directions of the Honourable the Governor General and Company signified in your letter of 3rd of October. Neither of the predicaments in which a latitude is granted for the detention of the Governor General's letters to the Peshwa and his minister existing in sufficient force to justify the use of that latitude,

I have resolved to deliver them and yesterday advised Mr. Anderson of my intention that he may be properly prepared to meet any discussion on the subject. I shall pay strict attention to the wishes of the Hon'ble Board relative to the mode of delivering the letters and have the honour to be.

P. S —I have to request that in future I may be furnished with both Persian and English copies of letters to this Durbar, and that you will lay my enclosed disbursements for the months of October before the Hon'ble Board

**No. 35**—Malet accepts the aims of British policy in India as laid down by the Governor General and explains their import. He also adverts to the French intrigues at Poona.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE EARL CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 26th November 1786.*

My Lord,

Under the 17th instant I was honoured with your Lordship's commands of the 27th of September and 3rd of October. I am highly flattered, my Lord, by the frank and confidential communication of your sentiments relative to the late negotiations at this Court for an explanation of my conduct, through which permit me to refer your Lordship to my address of the 31st of July to the Honourable Board and to the late Hon'ble President. Persuaded as I am that my correspondence with the Honourable Board will convince your Lordship that my most zealous endeavours have hitherto been directed to answer the ends of Government, so am I bold to assure you that it shall be my future study faithfully and diligently to act up to the explicit line of conduct prescribed by your Lordship, and to impress this Government as far as possible with a respect for the principles of candour and good faith on which it is founded.

From the nature of the preceding negotiations at this Court the new line prescribed in your Lordship's letter and the latitude granted for my conduct, not only demanded my most serious deliberation then, but that I should now fully account to you for the resolution I have adopted in consequence thereof.

From the frequent and attentive perusal of your Lordship's letters the following conclusions seemed obvious:—

(1) that it was the intention of the Hon'ble Board to establish the reputation of an explicit decided system of politics founded on the basis of a faithful observance of subsisting treaties,

(2) that it was the wish of the Hon'ble Board to prevent an appearance of contradiction in the past and present measures of Government and to avoid if possible the smallest cause of dissatisfaction

to this Court but not at the expense of an evasive answer or in the least cherishing the hopes hitherto entertained of assistance.

The first of these conclusions was to be admitted and the intention of the Hon'ble Board executed by the delivery of your accompanying letters and unreserved declaration of the present system, in case there was no prospect of a speedy peace between the belligerent Powers, or Tippoo had not committed actual hostilities against the Hon'ble Company.

The second was only allowable in case the prospect of a speedy peace by rendering further explanation unnecessary, afforded an opportunity without further sacrifice of leaving this Court under the impression of the former offer however circumscribed in its nature and removing from our own all appearance of inconsistency; or in case Tippoo by an actual commencement of hostilities should have rendered the execution of that offer in a more extended sense just and necessary. These premises established, it remained, my Lord, to take a view of the predicaments in which a latitude of delay was granted and whether they warranted the exercise of it.

Having heard nothing of hostilities between the Company's Government and Tippoo Sultan, I on perusal of your letter addressed the Bombay Government for information on that point, and in the meantime exerted every means I possessed to gain some certain knowledge of the state of the negotiations between the contending powers. That some advances have been made by Tippoo is certain, whether insidiously by causing jealousies between the allies to weaken and divide their power or *bona fide* from a desire of peace I have not been able to ascertain; but from the intelligence from the army of his negotiation with Nizam Ally Khan, the former motive seems the most probable. At all events having neither been able from my intelligence nor from the present state of the war to collect that a speedy termination was to be expected, immediately on receipt of an answer to my letter to Bombay advising that no hostilities had been committed which I received on the 24th instant, I resolved without further delay to execute your original orders of 27th September relative to the delivery of the letters, and as a necessary preparative the same day advised Mr. James Anderson of my intentions and accompanied my letter to him with one of your Lordship's, duplicate of which I have now the honour to enclose.

I am concerned, my Lord, to find that what is mentioned in my letter of 7th July concerning Govindrao should have been subject to a construction very different from my meaning. The person that made the proposal to me was Behro Punt who in the course of my correspondence has been frequently mentioned as the confidential minister of Nana and through whom all my business is transacted. On his making the proposal it was to him I applied for the knowledge of Nana's sentiments on the occasion, and if your Lordship will take the trouble of referring to my

letter, it will be found that so far from any bias being employed in favour of the proposal, my motives for mentioning it were to convey a trait in the disposition of this Court toward those who had been connected with the Company in their late wars and to collect the opinion of your Hon'ble Board on matters of the same nature in future.

Having in the course of my pursuits after intelligence relative to the French intrigues of this Court, procured some papers explanatory of former negotiations of this ministry with that nation, I have thought it proper to submit them to your perusal. The person to whom they were entrusted did not proceed further than Goa where he was met by Mons. Montigne with an appointment from France or the French Governor in India to reside at Poona. The Marhatta agent returned with this gentleman through whom all future negotiations were transacted. In some of my former letters is mentioned Mons. Montigne's intended departure, but he now circulates that he has lately received orders from the new Governor just arrived at Pondicherry not to quit Poona, but to be particularly attentive to the state of the English negotiations at that city. He boasts much of the great force lately landed at Pondicherry and does not even hesitate to say that the troops now there amount to 7,000 men. By his account a gentleman is lately gone to reside at Hyderabad of which and of all other matters regarding Nizam Ally Khan, Your Lordship will of course receive the fullest information from Meer Mahamod Hussein. The late Governor General was kind enough to furnish him with an order to make regular communications to me which I should be happy to have repeated by your Lordship in a letter to him through me.

Permit me to observe to you, my Lord, that Zain-al-Abidin Khan the person employed by this ministry as their agent to the Government of Mauritius as mentioned in the accompanying papers, was recommended by me to the last Governor General under 2nd June last. The readiness and ability I have seen in this person to promote my wishes in any matters tending to the service of the Company, force me to repeat that recommendation and to solicit being honoured with your Lordship's pleasure regarding him.

On the 17th instant the seven deserters mentioned in a former address were delivered up to me and on the 21st I forwarded them to Bombay with five others that have voluntarily surrendered themselves.

Finding the quarters allotted for me in town unwholesome and inconvenient in several respects particularly as giving rise to frequent little disputes with the town people which I am most anxious to avoid; I encamped on the 22nd instant with Nanna's consent and approbation just without the city at the conflux of the rivers Moola and Moota where I propose residing during the dry season.

Since writing the above I have received the following answer to an application to the Minister for intelligence of the present state of affairs



with Tippoo and the errand of the camel Hircarra lately arrived here from that Prince viz. that no progress has been made to an accommodation ; that the camel Hircarra brought letters to the Rasta family avowing his pacifick inclinations and desiring to know the reason of the enmity of this Durbar , that Government have paid no attention to these advances in the persuasion that they were destitute of meaning and that the principal object of sending such a messenger was to procure intelligence, and that he had been accordingly dispatched from Poona with all speed. The arrival of a person on the part of Tippoo in Holcar's Camp is also confirmed This circumstance with a Jaghirdar of Holcar's rank and character tends to corroborate the idea of an insidious design on the part of Tippoo.

**No. 36**—This is a continuation of the story of the deserters.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE HONOURABLE RAWSON HART BODDAM, GOVERNOR, BOMBAY.

*Poona, 28th November 1786*

The seven deserters having been delivered up to me on the 17th instant in consequence of your demand agreeable to treaty, I now dispatch them under a strong guard to the Resident at Carranja with a letter desiring him to take charge of and send them to Bombay.

I also take this opportunity of forwarding the five which under 15th ultimo I advised you had surrendered themselves but for whose passage to Bombay I could procure no passport. As the surrender of these five unfortunate men was entirely voluntary, permit me to hope that this circumstance will have some weight in their favour since by that meritorious act they certainly have greater claim to, more than the other seven, on the delivering up of whom I gave Nanna a promise that I would intercede with you for their pardon, which he insisted on as an established usage ; and consulting former records I found several passages in support of his claim and amongst the rest the following which is extracted from the Treaty of 14th September 1761.—

Viz : “ All Europeans and natives either soldiers, seamen or others in his Britannic Majesty's or the Honourable Company's pay who may hereafter desert from Bombay, shall be immediately secured and returned to the nearest English settlement. The Governor having promised all such a free pardon, etc., etc.”

The minister has promised to send positive orders to the Amildars of the low country to permit none of the fugitives to pass in future. I have been in expectation of an answer to your letter these two days past, in consequences of promises from the Durbar, but it not having yet arrived and it being very uncertain when it will, I have thought proper to despatch this and the deserters without waiting for it.

On the first delivery of the deserters, Nanna hinted to me his wish that they might be suffered to remain with him as a favour. This I acquainted him it was not in my power to grant, but that I would make known his wishes to you. This I find he declines and I have not thought proper to gratify him without the sanction of your authority.

I have tho't it necessary to handcuff the deserters.

**No. 37**—Malet vividly describes his interview with Nana in which the rejection of Maratha request for British help was communicated. Nana charged the British with duplicity and breach of plighted word

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

*Poona, 30th November 1786.*

My Lord,

Anxious to keep your Lordship speedily advised relative to the important points contained in your commands of 27th of September and 3rd of October, under the 24th instant, I had the honour to inform you by a short letter through Mr. Anderson of the resolution I had come to and under the 26th to trouble you via Masulipatam with an explanation of the grounds on which that resolution was formed, duplicate of which shall be forwarded through Mr. Anderson for his information.

I have now the honour to congratulate your Lordship on your perfect liberation from every embarrassment arising from any engagements to this Government

Conformable to my advices of the 24th and 26th, having signified the arrival of letters from your Lordship and demanding an audience of the Peshwa for delivery, the Regent Minister desired me first to favour him with a visit that he might make the necessary arrangements and be provided for the matter on its coming before the Peshwa. Accordingly on the 29th in the evening I waited on Nanna Furnaveese whom I found attended only by Behro Pundit. I accompanied the presentment of your Lordship's letter to Nanna and the English one with its persian translate for the Peshwa, copy of which I have now the honour to enclose, with the usual compliments and professions on the part of your Lordship, blending them with my own congratulations on the late capture of the fort of Surhatty\*. After which signifying that I had something of a private nature to communicate I begged attendants might be ordered to retire which being complied with, I commenced the execution of your Lordship's instructions with expressions of concern at being under the necessity of communicating matters which however just and requisite would probably, as contrary to his wishes, be to him disagreeable. He with great coolness begged me to be under no uneasiness for anything

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\* Sirhatty, district Dharwar.

that in the course of business became necessary. I acknowledged the justness of his idea but observed that the pleasure of his acquaintance necessarily made anything that could be cause of concern to him disagreeable to me, nor was this extraordinary when even the Governor General, tho' he had not that pleasure yet from respect for his character and regard for the Peshwa's person, experienced the same feelings and complied reluctantly with the details of duty.

Expressing a strong desire to know the contents of the letter of business I caused it to be read and explained from my British translate. During the explanation of the letter to which he paid great attention, he betrayed marks of thoughtfulness and concern and after it had been read, observed that it would be sufficient to deliver the letter of reference to the Peshwa at the same time mentioning to His Highness the delivery of this to Nana to which I assented.

He next expressed much surprise that the resolutions adopted on mature deliberation, not lightly by an individual, but in Council, could thus admit of fluctuation. I endeavoured to combat this observation by replying that the former offer of aid was made on the presumption of the ascendancy of Tippoo's power and on the probability that it might be rendered still more formidable by an introduction of a French force which persuasion originated in the terms of their application for our aid through Mahadji Sindia, intimating that the French Minister at this Court had signified that if their assistance were rejected here, it would be granted to Tippoo. That these suppositions no longer existed. We had seen with pleasure a constant train of success attend the Mahratta arms and your Lordship's late departure from Europe and intimate knowledge of the state of affairs there, removed all apprehension of the French attempting, in breach of subsisting treaties, to disturb by their interference the affairs of Hindostan, but that should they, or any other European nation aid Tippoo, the requisite measures would then become the object of consideration. On hearing this he seemed thoughtful and after a pause asked me earnestly if Mahadji Sindia had mentioned the French in his application for assistance as I had related. I replied that I had always understood so.

In the course of further conversation he seemed to infer that our late and present conduct to this Government bore the appearance of duplicity which he was equally surprized at and unable to account for, that the former offer had been made with great form and solemnity, that the day chosen to communicate it was insisted on as sacred and auspicious and that the communication of that day had been frequently repeated in the very same words. To account for the repetition I explained our custom of sending duplicates, and in reply to the inference of duplicity I again urged the supposition of the ascendancy of Tippoo's power and the probable introduction of a French force, that all councils naturally varied

with a change of circumstances, and these arguments I supported with the topics so forcibly insisted on in your Lordship's letter relative to the faithful observance of treaties. To all which he curtly replied that the same treaties prevailed then as now. Of this I admitted the truth and in addition to the endeavours I had already used to justify the offer of aid and its revocation on the existence or non-existence of the two aforesaid suppositions, I now attempted to vindicate it with respect to subsisting treaties by insisting that from its very restricted nature it involved no absolute breach, but as it was meant within the letter of treaties to provide against expected predicaments, so the expectation of those predicaments no longer existing, the smallest pretence for accomplishing those restricted offers naturally fell to the ground. My desire if possible to gain some ground during this conference on Nanna's individual affections and my conviction of the necessity inculcated in your commands of treating this subject with the utmost delicacy, induced me to repeat with great warmth that notwithstanding the justice of these pleas your Lordship very reluctantly had recourse to them in justification of a measure disagreeable to the views and wishes of this Court, to which I added such professions of my own personal concern as I thought calculated to qualify the nature of the subject. To this part of my discourse he always replied with great complacency that circumstances of this kind necessarily occurred in the course of affairs of Government and political transaction, and that they should never be suffered to give personal uneasiness, but notwithstanding this construction I could plainly perceive that the *eclaircissement* gave him the greatest anxiety and chagrin. After these points were fully discussed I mentioned your Lordship's intention of sending the largest and smallest elephant to be procured as a proof of your regard for the Peshwa, I begged an early day might be fixed for my audience that I might make the assurances of friendship which I had in charge from your Lordship and that as a proof of their part of the same spirit desired to be furnished as soon as possible with the answers to your Lordship's letter which were promised. During this conference some hints were dropped by Behro Pundit to collect the practicability of renewing the negotiation of assistance by reference to Europe, which I utterly discouraged as the present measures were founded on the broad basis of good faith and the laws of our country.

I have received no intelligence from the army since my last respects. The detachment under Oorekur has not yet marched, and it is probable that your Lordship's declaration to this Government will accelerate any disposition that may already exist to accommodation. I shall continue diligently to endeavour to conciliate the regard and to penetrate the designs of this Court and have the honour to be, etc

Having recollected the reasons that prevented your Lordship's reading the letter to the Peshwa in Persian, I have dropped my intention of sending

the Persian translate mentioned in the body of this letter. I have the honour to send with this three packets from the Bombay Government to your Hon'ble Board.

**No. 38**—The appointment of Mr. Uhthoff to succeed Mr Wilkinson as Assistant Resident at Poona is sanctioned.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—EDWARD HAY, SECRETARY, SECRET AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT,  
FORT WILLIAM.

*Poona, 8th December 1786.*

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 25th October, which reached me this day in thirty-two days from Benares, signifying that the Right Hon'ble the Governor General and Council have been pleased to request the sanction of the Hon'ble the President and Council of Bombay to the appointment of Mr Joshua Uhthoff to succeed Mr Wilkinson as my Assistant

I shall immediately communicate this circumstance to the Government of Bombay, and have to request you will make my acknowledgements to the Right Hon'ble Board for their compliance with my wishes on this occasion, which, your knowledge of Mr Uhthoff must convince you, is to me a very pleasing mark of their attention.

**No. 39**—Malet interviews the Peshwa and presents him with the largest and smallest elephants sent by the Governor General as presents for him.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE HON'BLE LORD CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL, CALCUTTA.

*Poona, 8th December 1786.*

My Lord,

Under the 30th ultimo I had the honour to advise Your Lordship via Masulipatam of the explanation I had come to with the minister of the Government agreeable to your instructions of the 27th September and 3rd October, duplicate of which now proceeds with this under cover to Mr. Anderson for his information

A succession of religious or inauspicious days having intervened till yesterday I had then an audience of the Peshwa in full Durbar at which I formally announced your Lordship's arrival at Calcutta and accession to the Government General of Bengal and the British possessions in Hindostan, and presented your Lordship's bag letter, referring him as usual to the minister who was anxious for the particulars and the contents of the letters and accompanyd its delivery with such an account of your Lordship's powers and such assurances of friendship and adherence to the subsisting treaties as I thought best calculated to make an impression

on his young mind I particularly insisted on the proof he might shortly expect of your regard in a present of the largest and smallest elephant that could be found in the provinces of Bengal, and from my earnest desire if possible to conciliate some share of the personal regard of this young prince, I presented him on my own part a pair of very elegant silver pocket pistols of a new and ingenious construction.

Both the practice of Eastern Durbars and the youth of the Peshwa prevented his saying much in reply, but the Minister in his name expressed much satisfaction on learning your Lordship's arrival and accession to the Governor General and formally assured me in answer to your Lordship's professions of friendship and faithful adherence to treaties that the Peshwa felt the full force of the one and was equally resolved with your Lordship religiously to observe the other. I observed that with intentions so perfectly in union the happiest consequence and the most uninterrupted cordiality must ensue. Having received promises of being very soon furnished with answers to your Lordship's letters I took my leave.

Notwithstanding the Minister in all matters of form and ceremony has hitherto punctiliously treated me with respect due to the dignity of your Lordship's Government, yet I have some reason to think that he is exceedingly chagrined and disappointed by the late change of measures and from private channels I am taught to believe that his reliance on the reputation of our aid has been a principal cause of his rejecting all councils that tended to an accommodation, so he now does not scruple to insinuate that the offer of aid was made with a view to prolong the war. The prevalence of this idea is the more dangerous and difficult to combat from its having reached me through private channels, consequently to attempt its removal would be proving too much, and as Nana will find it necessary to insist on it in justification of his own measures, it naturally follows that he must in some degree establish their propriety on what he will call a breach of faith on our part. Since my *eclaircissement* he has had frequent private conferences with the agent of Nizam Ally Khan the subject of which I have not been able to learn, though I am told that two days after my conference the advances of Tippoo were treated with more indulgence and judged worthy of some attention. There are even reports that a *vackeel* from that Prince may be soon expected and these persons are named Ghias Mahd. Khan, Noor Mahd. Khan and Budder-al-Zaman Khan.

I have neither received nor heard any intelligence worth mentioning from the army since my last. The party under Oorekur still remains encamped near the town. A few days ago Emrut Rao the grandson of Trimbak Rao Mamma and son-in-law of Hurry Punt Furkia died at Nasik. He was not above two or three and twenty years old and was reckoned one of the most promising young men of the Durbar.

**No. 40**—Malet reports to the Governor General Tipu's attack on and plunder of the Maratha Camp.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—SIR ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

*Poona, 12th December 1786.*

Honourable Sir,

The principal interest of this address is to inform you that about 10 days ago Tippoo made a very serious night attack on the Mahratta Camp which fell more severely on the Bhonsla and Nizam's quarters, the bazaars and baggage of which was plundered by the enemy. Hurry Punt's quarters being less encumbered escaped better, but the whole army was thrown into great confusion, and Tippoo after remaining on the Mahratta ground all night and finding in the morning that the enemy had retreated seven coss further, returned to his tents. This has been a severe blow on the Mahrattas and will I apprehend be found so in its consequences. The plunder acquired by it will in some measure reconcile Tippoo's troops to their bad payment, while the Mahrattas (who) used to commit depredations on others will be greatly disconcerted on finding the tables turned.

**No. 41**—Malet reports the progress of the Maratha war with Tipu and the disaffection of Holkar, Rastia and others

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE EARL CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 18th December 1786*

My Lord,

Thinking an account of the late surprize of the Mahratta Camp at this critical period of sufficient importance to merit the earliest communication, I had the honour to advise you of it the 12th instant and by express cossids via Masulipatam.

On the 13th instant I received intelligence that in consequence of some hopes of a surrender of the fort of Dhairwar from a negotiation with some persons in the place, a large body of Mahrattas had been detached to make their appearance near it; but a timely reinforcement having been thrown into the fort by Tippoo the design miscarried. Some rumours also were circulated that the late attack of the Mahratta Camp was with Holcar's knowledge and connivance. The world is generally fond of the marvellous, but in the present case some circumstances seem to corroborate the probability of this story. Emissaries from Tippoo had for some time been going and coming to his camp. He bore no part in the loss of the attack. He cannot be supposed from past events to have any personal affection for Nana or any desire to raise his glory

Politically he is certainly interested in the existence of a southern power to employ the attention of the Poona ministry. He has long complained of inattention to his pecuniary wants and has long been employed much against his inclination at a distance from his own Jaghure which has suffered great dilapidations in his absence. By letters received this day from Mr. Yvon, copy of which I have the honour to enclose, the persuasion seems also to have generally prevailed in the army and to have threatened dreadful consequences. Rasta also a Brahmin Chief of the first consequence and related to the Peshwa seems to have suffered in the public opinion. The possessions of this powerful family border on Tippoo's frontier and from that circumstance he may be supposed to wish to be on good terms with so near and so powerful a neighbour, though the fate of Morarrao Goarpurra the Mahratta Chief of Gutti, Billarree etc., so famous in the former Carnatic wars, who was entirely reduced by Hyder during the late Mahratta wars with the English, might have convinced him that no reliance is to be placed on the favour or forbearance of a Hyder or a Tippoo. From Mr Yvon's letter it seems the restitution of the possessions of this Chieftain constitutes a part of the present demands of the Mahrattas on Tippoo.

I have lately had some reason to think that this Court is engaged in some intrigues for the acquisition of the strong fortress of Janjira. I have given intimation of this circumstance to the Bombay Government which will enable them to act as they may, consistent with their engagements to this Government and that of the Siddees.

Each day brings some fresh account of the distress of the army from the late surprize the consequences of which, from the nature of Mahratta armies composed of great chieftains, each desirous of relieving himself from obloquy by incriminating others and particularly the general, will I apprehend, be very serious, especially as the army is at present from bad payments and great arrears very susceptible to impressions of discontent. No reinforcement has yet marched from here.

**No. 42**—Malet touches in this letter on several topics referring to the Court of Poona, recommends Zenn-ul-Abidin Khan for service, and Capt. Reynolds for preparing a geographical survey of Hindustan.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 28th December 1786*

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Under the 18th instant I had the honour to address the Right Honourable the Governor General, duplicate of which and of this dispatch shall be forwarded in a day or two by Mhadjee Sindia's Camp for the information of the Resident of that Durbar. This proceeds by the way of Masulipatam.



A few days since Narrain Rao, the Portuguese Vackeel at this Court, had his audience of leave to proceed to Goa and was dispatched with every mark of regard and attention by Nanna. A Portuguese Officer who lately arrived here from Goa has been entertained in the service of this Government by Nana. He is reported to have been forced to leave Goa by having assassinated or killed in a duel some person there. I am informed that the Parsee\* who was sent to England by the late Ragonath Rao has for some time past been at Goa. This circumstance added to the certain knowledge that this ministry has long entertained an idea of sending an agent to England which employment was once proposed to Z. A. D. K. †, gives room to conjecture that they may have some design of dispatching this person and may have entrusted the management of it to Narrain Rao.

Since the 18th instant Nanna has had frequent and long private conferences with Govinrao the Vackeel of Nizam Ally Khan in consequence of which several express camels and horsemen have been dispatched to Hyderabad. I am informed that Nanna has carefully evaded all the enquiries of Govinrao to procure the substance of the late letters of the Right Honourable the Governor General to this Court. His reasons for this are obvious. He is apprehensive that the deprivation of all hope of assistance from the Company may throw an unreasonable damp on the Suba's inclination to prosecute the war. I am also inclined to think that Nanna has very little dependence on the exertions of the Subha further than [his being] influenced by apprehension of the Mahratta Power, the effect of which must necessarily be weakened by the late checks the combined army has met with and the actual loss of territory the Subha has suffered from Tippoo Sultan.

I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter from the Mahratta Camp received here the 19th instant. The accounts received since confirm what is therein mentioned of the resolution to prosecute the war more vigorously, to detach a body to lay waste the country south of the Tunbudra, and even to attack Tippoo himself at the first convenient opportunity. Hurry Pundit I am informed is exceedingly chagrined at his late misfortune and anxious to repair it by some brilliant exploit. It is certain that the artillery and superfluous baggage of the army has been sent to Buddammee, and that the army by the last advices about 9 days ago was encamped near Bhadur Binda a fort lately taken by the Mahrattas.

On the 22nd instant I communicated to the Honourable the Governor of Bombay the explanation lately come to with this Durbar on the subject of assistance. Copy of my letter is enclosed and I hope the motives that induced my writing it as therein explained, will meet the approval of your Right Honourable Board.

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\*Maniar Parsi.

†Zain-ul-Abidin Khan.

On the 23rd instant I was honoured with your commands of the 2nd October and 30th October via Benares. In the former it is noticed that my itinerary from Panwell to Marrolee forwarded to the late Governor General under the 7th of May has been received. Permit me to add that its continuation to Buddammee was also transmitted to the late Governor General under the 22nd of May.

Observing that your Hon'ble Board has thought proper to transmit my itinerary to the Surveyor General, permit me to remark that though I believe it is free from actual error yet as during my journeys to the North and to the South I had the most entire reliance on the professional skill and well-known ingenuity of Surveyor Captain Reynolds, I have been less attentive to certain points of geographical import than otherwise I should have been, so I am confident that Captain Reynolds' surveys and journals both from Surat to Dehly etc and from Bombay to Buddammee will not only amply supply the want of geographical matter in my itinerary but prove a most valuable acquisition to the Surveyor General in perfecting the work he is now engaged under your auspices. Captain Reynolds has for some time past been absent at Surat to benefit his health by change of air. Having learnt that he is now much recovered I have procured and shall send him by the first opportunity a pass for returning hither by land and as the tract between this and Surat is hitherto very little known, his journey will greatly add to the ample stock of materials which he has already collected for improving the geography of Hindustan.

I beg you my Lord and Gentlemen to accept my most respectful acknowledgments of the readiness and liberality with which you have adopted my proposals for the more easy and ready payment of the gentlemen and guard attached to my station. My thanks are also due for your attention to and compliance with my representations relative to my personal allowances by directing that they shall commence from the period at which I entered on my first journey toward Calcutta. I shall as soon as possible make out the accounts of the Bombay balances due to the gentlemen and detachments with me and after submitting them to the inspection and procuring the sanction of the Bombay Board transmit them to you and endeavour to raise the amount by bills on Benares which method shall be regularly observed in future, if I can by that channel procure the requisite sums, the practicability of which I have still some reason to doubt. But if I cannot reduce this point to a certainty I shall continue to apply to Bombay for the current monthly expenses of the gentlemen and detachment from thence which they have lately regularly supplied and confine my drafts on Benares to the amount of arrears due to the Surgeon and Surveyor that accompanied me to Mhadjee Sindia's Camp and Calcutta.

The Honourable Board may rest assured both of my conviction of the necessity of economy and of my earnest desire to regulate my expenses

by the strictest attention thereto. My accounts lately transmitted will explain the state of my establishment and the extent of my monthly disbursements, which have been formed with an eye to the usage of Indian courts, the practice of my predecessors, of my own idea of what was requisite to support at the same time the dignity of the station which I have the honour to fill, but should your Honourable Board think proper to reduce any part of my present establishment, I shall most cheerfully conform to any instructions you may think proper to give me on that head, at the same time that I shall discourage as much as is in my power all new designs

As from the nature of Z A D. K's situation under the minister and the circumspection with which all my actions are observed my intercourse with him is seldom and secret, I have not yet had an opportunity of giving him any intimation of the receipt of an answer to his requests from your Hon'able Board, nor from the guarded terms in which your answer is conceived, am I very well prepared to meet his importunity and solicitude. But as I think I can perceive that your principal difficulty in replying to his request arises from delicacy to Mahomed Rezza Khan, I will with your permission make him acquainted with this cause of your hesitating to grant him the permission he requests of returning to Bengal, and advise him to apply immediately to the Naib Subha and will if you have no objection grant him a letter of recommendation on my own part to his relation.

**No. 43**—Mr. Yvon describes the failure of negotiations between the Marathas and Tipu and mentions the present position of the two armies.

**FROM**—MR YVON, A BRITISH DESERTER EMPLOYED AS A NEWS-WRITER.

**TO**—CHARLES MALET

*Maratha Camp near Kopal, 30th December 1786.*

The propositions made by Tippoo Sultan being rejected by the Mahratta Government the 28th instant, the Vackeel had his audience of leave. It seems that instead of restoring the country taken by Hyder Ally Khan from the Mahrattas, Tippoo has demanded Buddamme and Gujundurghur with their districts, leaving them in possession of the rest, to pay them the accustomed tribute now due and which is hereafter to be paid annually. The differences between him and Nizam Ally Khan Tippoo would also settle

Yesterday arrived Oosman Jung with 8,000 horse and foot. It is reported that Mogul Ally and Mohabut Jung are shortly expected to join with 30,000 horse and foot, besides artillery. Tippoo's Vackeel is still here; whether for further consultation on the late propositions or that he has orders to treat upon better terms, I cannot say, he is however expected to depart shortly unless his master consent to the conditions offered by the Mahratta Government and Nizam Ally Khan.

Since my last the army has marched eight coss, viz. the 25th, three, and the 26th five, and is now encamped five coss to the eastward of Copal, and it seems that we shall proceed towards Adoni for the convenience of forage, or perhaps a battle may ensue shortly, but this last I doubt, as the country of Adoni is intended for the seat of war, and so on in the enemy's country. Tippoo is encamped on the Tumbudra between six and seven leagues from the Mahratta Army

[True extract]

C. W MALET

**No. 44**—Malet requests the Governor General's orders as to whether he should accept or reject the guest-allowance (Mehemani) offered him by the Court of Poona

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 31st December 1786.*

This serves to accompany duplicate of my respects of the 28th and to give cover to my disbursements for the month of November.

Since my arrival here I have frequently been importuned by Government to accept the compliment generally known by the term of Mehmanee or "an allowance made at all Indian Courts and I am told by the Company's Governments also to foreign ministers." I have hitherto rejected the instances made to me on this subject, but as I am given to understand that it would be imputed to want of cordiality, I have thought proper to submit it to your notice and shall be happy to be honored with your sentiments thereon. The amount is about 6 hundred Rupees per month. Should you think it proper that I should receive and carry to the Company's credit, part of it shall be appropriated to defray the expenses of the presents made to the officers of the Durbar etc on the festivals of Christmas and the New Year.

**No. 45**—Malet transmits the intelligence contained in this paper, about a meeting of Tipu with Mon. Monneron, a Frenchman, and reports the conversation that passed between them.

## INTELLIGENCE FROM TIPPOO'S CAMP

*Translation.*

*Rd. Poona, 5th January 1787.*

About four months ago Mr. Peter Monneron, a native of France but lately a Portuguese by naturalization, was sent on the part of the Government of Pondicherry to Tippoo Sultan to settle the accounts of

the King of France and in payment of the debt contracted during the last war, to make him an offer of cannon of all calibres, fusils and all sorts of merchandize that might be useful to him.

Tippoo replied that for a length of time his father and himself had been allies of the King of France, which had cost him crores in the last war that he had lost many brave soldiers and several distinguished chiefs and all this to re-establish the French in their own territories. Of course this debt was but of little moment.

He desired to know what rank and power M. Cossigny held at Pondicherry and when he thought it probable the English might make any movements.

Mon. Monneron's reply. Mon. Cossigny is a Brigadier in His Majesty's army, Knight of the Royal and Military Order of St. Louis and Governor of Pondicherry. He has the power of acting as he pleases without the authority of Mon. DeSouillac. Should the season be unfavourable the French never would abandon him in necessity. Tippoo observed. If I send ambassadors with presents to the King of France, will they be attended to? and will you promise me to accompany them?

Mon. Monneron replied. You may send whomsoever you please and I give you my word that I will conduct them and bring them back to you.

Mon. Monneron then demanded. Will you grant from your munificence those villages with the same privileges that your father gave to Mahie and allow the ancient trade of linen, etc., coming from Quilon to pass through your territories and issue positive orders that everything pass without impediment from your people?

Tippoo replied. I grant your request for the immunities of Mahie but with regard to the Quilon trade I allow that also on condition the Government of Pondicherry, whenever he may require, ought to write a letter in French and Malabar for the number of bullock loads requisite and put his seal to it. They will not then be detained. I give you in charge a horse and a present for Mon. Cossigny, a Serpau etc, for M. Souillac and for yourself a badge of merit and a Serpau, a fusil of my new manufactory and some money for your expense. Mon. Monneron made his acknowledgments and two days after set off for Pondicherry, where the three ambassadors will proceed to join him with their presents, etc. One of them is named Mahomed Osman, a confidant of the old Nabob, a great bigot and crafty politician, between 55 and 60 years of age. The others are not yet known but it may reasonably be supposed they will be imposters to whom he will give high titles as he is accustomed to do. This Mahomed Osman tho' an ancient confidant has not much influence with Tippoo. He was formerly (Daroga) Superintendent of the Surgeons and Physicians of the household and of the medicines of the Sirkar.

No. 46—Malet communicates to the Governor General an account of the Frenchman Mr. Burette who arrived at Poona from the Maratha Camp. he also reports how Tipu's army was dwindling owing to desertion.

FROM—Mr C. W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS.

*Poona, 10th January 1787.*

On the same day a Mr. Burette, a Frenchman, arrived here from the Mahartta army. He acquainted me, that he had been a surgeon on the Madras establishment, was taken prisoner\* by Hyder at Gingee, and had been detained by Tippoo at the peace. In consequence of this representation, I have dispatched him to Bombay with letters to the Governors of that place and Madras, enclosing copies of his narrative, which I have also now the honour to furnish Your Lordship, rather as coming before me officially, than as containing anything very interesting or important.

Since my last respects a large sum of money, said to amount to twelve lacks of rupees, has been sent here by Ahilabye from Indor, for the payment of Holcar and his troops. This is to be forwarded to the army with a supply of treasure from hence.

I have the honour to enclose extract of a letter from my correspondent in the army, received here the 6th instant. Also the translate of a paper of intelligence procured through another channel, relative to the business of the French agent that lately visited Tippoo, and whose true name I find is Monneron. Your Lordship will be better able to judge of the credit due to it, than I possibly can. All accounts from Tippoo's army agree that his troops are to a man discontented; and Mr Burette thinks he must have lost from 15 or 20,000 men by desertion since his march from Seringaputtun.

On the news of the late surprize, new orders were issued for raising troops, and the levies were carrying on briskly, but since the news of the arrival of an agent from Tippoo, they seem to have relaxed, and notwithstanding what Mr Yvon writes, there are reports that Tippoo's agent is expected at Poona to negotiate a peace, but I cannot vouch for the authenticity of these reports.

Yesterday I was informed that a relation of the late Bissaulut Jung had retaken Adoni by surprise, but I cannot vouch for the truth of it.

Frequent horse and camel couriers continue to go and come between this and Hyderabad.

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\*The story of Burette's captivity has been printed in *Bengal Past and Present*, 1935

**No. 47**—Malet received the accompanying secret information of a negotiation conducted by one Bhujang Rao on behalf of Wajah Jah Nawab of Arcot with Nana Fadnis. Malet later on got this Bhujang Rao dismissed from Arcot.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,  
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 11th January 1787.*

*Account of a meeting of Bhujang Rao with Nanna.*

The day before yesterday being Tuesday 9th January 1787 Bhujang Rao accompanied by Appa, Sudasew Madarao waited by appointment on the Minister when the following conversation passed. After the restoration of his country the Nabob Wajah Jah has stationed 3,000 Europeans and 6,000 Sepoys with ample warlike apparatus near Gingi under a general with orders that should the French make any motion from Pondicherry to oppose them, that another general with 1,500 Europeans and 3,000 Sepoys was stationed near the ghaut, that should any body of forces move from Pondicherry towards Tippoo's Country they might oppose them, that for the maintenance of these forces the Nabob annually issues 8 lacs of rupees from his treasury and 8 more are appropriated to the payment of his debt to the Company.

That the Nabob of Carnatic is desirous that the Minister should advance in person to the Kistna when he would send the above-mentioned forces to his assistance when it should be settled that the Mahrattas should supply the Nabob's forces with provisions etc

To this the Minister replied, how can the English join any other power when it has been settled that if the French do not assist Tippoo the English are not to assist other powers. How then can they join the Peshwa and fight against Tippoo?

B. J. R. replied that it was true that the English of themselves could not assist them, but that if Wajah Jah entertaining them as in his service should dispatch them, every obstacle would be removed.

The Minister observed that full and ample assurance would be requisite to satisfy him on this head. B. J. R. replied that he also wanted from the Peshwa a firm agreement on this head. Because as soon as Tippoo learnt that the Nabob Wajah Jah meant to assist the Peshwa he would comply with the Peshwa's demands, who would agree thereto and drop Wajah Jah when the whole weight of both parties would fall on the Nabob. Wherefore he begged to be favoured with a firm and positive instrument on the subject which he might dispatch to the Nabob his Master.

The Minister replied that there would be no breach in any agreement the Peshwa should make, that he would write Hurry Punt on the subject and on receipt of his answer give him a clear answer thro' Madavarao which he might dispatch to his master.

B J R. also acquainted the Minister that Tippoo had from his father's death become an ally of the French, but that the French disgusted by his bad behaviour had not now joined him, but that if he has behaved well to them and required their assistance at first they would, but that now, should it be spread abroad that the Nabob Walla Jah was to assist the Peshwa, the French would remain quiet.

I was yesterday 4 hours with B. J. R. and his brother Kishun Rao and heard the particulars of the above

I have this moment received the enclosed paper of intelligence relative to B. J. R. negotiations and judged it incumbent on me to forward it for your observation. As it sometimes happens that our papers appear in print and as the divulging the name of a person who should communicate such intelligence would subject him to death, I have not thought it proper to mention the name of the person from whom I received it. Permit me to hope that my enquiries of the Nabob on the subject may be conducted with the greatest care and circumspection.

**No. 48**—Mr Yvon, a deserter from the Company's service and later employed by Sir Charles Malet as a reporter in the Maratha Camp, narrates to the latter his antecedents. He has written many letters, though not always in correct English

FROM—MR. YVON, A DESERTER FROM THE COMPANY'S SERVICE,  
TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET, ESQR.

*Maratha Camp, 14th January 1787.*

Sir,

As I presume by Mr Burette's letter your desire of being properly informed how I came in the black services as also the manner I left the English; pursuant to your orders I take now this opportunity to explain myself.

During the time Lieut. Bee was with me I related him every particular; and recommended him if he had an opportunity not to fail to communicate you the same.

The reason of my leaving the Honourable Company's service was on account of my name being changed, not by my fault, but by the neglect of the person who gave my name at the India House, Evans in lieu of Yvon (pronounced Evon) and as I did not pass, this error was not rectified.

It being suspected that I was in India on my uncle's arrival in England, Major Valentine Fuzer, he wrote to Col Bonjour that if such a person was in India, begged he would provide for him and give him the earliest notice. It was a long time before he could get any intelligence as no such a name was on the coast until the year 1772, when Col. Bonjour commanded Ramnadporum; at that time I was Sergt in the 12th Battn. of sepoys at Madura; when Lieut Gordon of P. Battn. went on command to Ramnadporum, one evening at supper, most of the officers being present at Head Quarters, Col Bonjour made an enquiry but none could give any intelligence until description was given by



Col. Bonjour ; when Lieut. Gordon immediately answered there was such a person in his Battn I was soon sent for from Madura ; but by my own fault I was not provided for After a few months past at my own request at the 2nd siege of Tanjor Col Bonjour got me removed in the Nabob's 1st Regt. of Cavalry commanded by Lieut Dugald Campbell with recommendations to that gentleman In the year 1774 I went with Lieut Dugald Campbell to Madras when at the same time I received a letter from England with orders from my mother to rectify the error in my name and that as Major Valentine Fuzer was ordered to Philadelphia since the year 1770 (or '72 to the best of my knowledge as I have almost forgot) she had got me appointed on the list of cadets for the year 1774 and if I should rather choose to return to Europe, was at my choice This reprimand about my name made such an impression upon me that I resolved to go to England or to some other coast, upon which I applied for my discharge and accordingly was discharged the Honourable Company's service the 1st October 1774 having served five years and four months, and in which time I might have had preferment had it not been my own stupidity and neglect After this I served on board near two months, was almost distracted being brought to poverty and the sea not suiting my constitution especially as being not like or a Vile sailor, took liberty of Capt Thompson and went ashore with him at Cochin and left him with permission. I remained a short time here and not finding shipping for Bengall went to Callicut and to Syringapatam where I found Coll Russell who favoured me very much and got me a passport from Hyder to go to Pondicherry. This is the way I travelled and came into the black service, thus you see Sir, my misfortune of losing dates even from Europe since the year 1774. About 4 years ago I left Adoni with an intention to go to Bombay or settle in Goa, where I went the first time in December 1783, was introduced to D Frederick Guilherme DeSouza who honoured me very much and desired me to remain in Goa and he would protect me. Having notice of Mr Charles Crommelin being in Goa, I was introduced to him by Major Cattalina who also honoured me much, persuaded me not to remain in Goa and that as he had no great interest at Bombay advised me to go to Bengall and he would recommend me to Lord Hastings I accepted his kind offer and should have gone had not misfortunes attended me. After I took my leave I returned to Quillon to settle my affairs and collect what cash I had lent out, which required a few months during which time I had correspondence with Mr Chas Crommelin who honoured me with several letters which I have at Poona yet, and that worthy gentleman wrote me he had sent copies of my letters to Bengall (the subject of which I have not time to relate here) on intelligence, and on a project formed, which would have taken, had not peace been concluded so soon with Hyder, that is Tippoo. The last letter I was favoured from Mr Crommelin was his departure from Goa for the recovery of his health

but that he would return after the monsoons. Several misfortunes befalling me, at last was reduced to come to Poona where I remained four months without service and a small company of sepoys to maintain but thanks be to the Almighty I have overcome all difficulties and could I get paid from the Sircar should be once more in a prosperous way until fortune better provides

Respecting my family if God spare my life and I have the honour of your conference I shall relate more particularly Let it suffice that I have nothing to boast of riches, had only a mother (which I believe no longer exists) and an uncle, brother of my mother, whom I have already mentioned and of whom only I might have any dependence as I am his only heir.

I have been informed that His Majesty's 40 Regiment of foot is at Madras and of late Mr Charles (formerly Lieut in Mahomed Ally Khan's service) assured me he had seen five companies of the said regiment, land not three years ago and that the rest was expected shortly to arrive. Major Valentine Fuzer belongs to this regiment or at least did in the year 1770 or 72 when the regiment was ordered to Philadelphia. This was the advice I had from my mother by a letter I received in June 1774. Be so kind, Sir, as to let me know the certainty of this

Give me leave, Sir, to assure you I shall always obey your orders as far as is in my power, and whatever delay happens, please do not attribute to my neglect, the circumstances I shall relate you of this at another time. I shall always endeavour to merit the attention of him and of whom I have the honour to be with the greatest respect

Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

Sd LEWIS ANTHY YVON.

Camp, 14th January 1787.

P. S.—Time permits me not to answer Mr. Burette's letter but will not fail by the next *cassids*. If your next *cassids* arrive shortly I shall detain them very likely a few days if I have nothing interesting to impart you of There is a sort of pestilence in camp whereby numbers have died, and still continues, those affected with this disorder live but a few hours after.

**No. 49**—Mr. Yvon, Malet's informant with the Maratha army, gives details of actions that were fought between the Marathas and Tipu. The latter captured Bahadurbinda.

FROM—MR. YVON, MALET'S NEWS-AGENT ;

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET, ESQ.

*Maratha Camp, 15th January 1787.*

Sir,

As I was daily in expectation of your *cassids*' arrival, prevented me dispatching you any intelligence by my own people, especially as nothing

very important has occurred since my last of the 30th December as also their not being so expeditious as I could desire

The 1st instant our army marched three coss and encamped between Gadjendregui and Copul, distance 5 leagues from either where we remained till the 8th when at three in the afternoon we moved ground and encamped at 4 coss from Copul.

As I communicated you in my last, Tippoo's Vackeel having had permission to remain until further advice from the Mahiatta Government and the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan should arrive, Tippoo not to lose time the 3rd instant opened his batteries upon Bhaderbundah and kept a most rapid fire till the 8th during which time he made three attempts to storm but was beat back with great loss. It is something surprising that he made such an attempt, the Fort being inaccessible, the description of which you may see in the letter I had the honour of writing you. Hurry Punt Perkhia seemed to be much displeased at Tippoo's proceedings, for which reason he expedited his Vackeel the 7th, and between the hours of eleven and twelve at night was escorted by a party of horse within sight of the enemy's camp, when after his arrival the trenches were withdrawn from Bahaderbundah.

It is reported that Mohobat Jung has defeated Booraonut-deen-Khan (whom Tippoo had sent with 1,000 men to surprise him by night) who, it is said made his escape with a few horse. The action, is said to have happened thus. Mohobat Jung having had timely intelligence ordered his Camp to remain and not even a tent to be struck allowing his people only to take what ready cash they had and he would be answerable for the rest. At the same time he withdrew his troops and lay in ambuscade whilst the enemy took the Camp handy. Mohobat Jung taking the opportunity of the enemy's falling to plunder fell upon them and destroyed the whole. How true this is I cannot affirm as yet as immediate credit cannot be given to every report that arrives in this Camp; nevertheless it appears that some action has happened in that quarter, as it is affirmed Mohobat Jung has entered Adoni country, in lieu of joining the Mahratta army as was expected and as I mentioned in my last.

The 10th instant arrived an express from Tippoo (two Saundnee Savours) upon which our marching was countermanded. It is said he proposes delivering up all his country on this side the Tombadra to the Mahrattas and pay them all arrears of tribute, but requests, they will let him settle with the Nizam, and he will satisfy him. Whatever answer was returned, may be supposed not satisfactory, for the 12th recommenced firing upon Bahaderbundah which ceased about 10 in the forenoon

It is reported since the 12th that Copal has revolted and has even fired upon their Master's troops and that the Governor has sent to Hurry Punt

Perkiah for conditions. This I cannot affirm, as there is no certainty of it. If this should come to pass, it will be a considerable loss for Tippoo. Notwithstanding, yesterday morning at daybreak we heard a very brisk cannonading but cannot tell whether it was against Bahaderbundah, Copul or a general field Day. This last is most probable as the fire began so early.

Several skirmishes have happened since the 1st instant between the scouting parties and it appears the Mahratta Horse have had the best. The 10th instant also Holcar's pindarees made a booty of 1,400 horses, tattoos and bullocks.

Yesterday we marched 4 coss eastward and are encamped about 6 coss from Copul and as many from the enemy who are encamped on the river Tombadra. It was said our march was directed for Bahaderbundah, but as the enemy marched by the right, we accordingly by the left, this march took up the best part of the day, therefore I could not dispatch your *cossid* early this morning, who arrived as we was preparing to march, and received your favour of the 4th instant as also a letter from Mr. Buiette.

This morning about eight Hurry Punt Perkiah marched with the best part of the army to reconnoitre the enemy, only the troops who were on piquet yesterday (that is last night) are left in Camp; my party being in this number, has given me time to write this, and for this purpose have detained your *cossids* that I might communicate you the success this day's enterprise met with, and beg leave to be with the greatest respect, yours etc

*PS*—The army begun to come in between 7 and 8 last night until ten much fatigued, the army halted within cannon shot of the enemy who advancing cannonaded them smartly upon which our army retreated and Hurry Punt Perkiah did not think it proper to charge the enemy. Bahaderbundah was taken by assault the 13th, the same day we marched. I suppose the garrison was at the last extremity (as unprovided for a siege of everything) and finding they could get no relief were in despair and so suffered the enemy to mount the walls. In short it is amazing such a strong Fort as this was taken in seven or eight days and the Mahratta army between 4 or 5 leagues distance. Copul has not revolted; what differences have happened have been made up, 'tis true the Governor had correspondence with our General but seeing how they attempted and succoured Bahaderbundah it will give and indeed has given a bad opinion of the Mahratta's behaviour. Tippoo had an advantageous disposition yesterday, viz the Tombadra on his right, and Copul and Bahaderbundah on his left, and here a range of hills near a coss in length beginning from Copul.

**No. 50**—Malet recounts the installation of Raja Shahu and his visit to Poona.  
The Raja was 23 years of age at the time.

An extract from a letter from Mr. C W Malet, Resident at Poona, to the Governor General —

*Poona, 15th March 1787.*

The present Rajah (of Sataia) is son of one 'Tumbuck Rao Bhosla, distantly related to the former Rajah ; on the death of the last without issue, the son of this person who served in the Maratta armies with about 15 hoisemen was selected<sup>1</sup> to fill the vacant throne on which he was accordingly placed in December 1778 with the title of Sao Rajah at about the age of 14 years. On the aggrandizement of his son the ministry granted estates to the father in the villages of Buttee Sorol,\* Wacee, to the amount of about 7,000 Rupees per annum and he now resides in the latter about fifty cose north of this place. The Raja lives under a very jealous, rigid inspection in the fort of Sittara under the management of Baburava (Apte), Bramin appointed from hence and instructed with the entire controul and direction of the Rajah's revenues, household, etc. The nominal officers anciently attached to the person of the Rajah are still kept up, subject to this minister, and with very circumscribed powers and allowances. The Rajah is sometimes permitted to descend from the fort to pay his devotions to certain idols in the town below, but is neither suffered to go beyond the town nor to make presents of value without express permission from hence. The garrison of the fort of Sittara is about one thousand men and many more in the environs

On the celebration of the Peshwa's marriage he came by invitation to Poona, on which occasion the ceremony of his reception was thus conducted. Emrut Rao, a Bramin of distinction, was sent hence with a thousand horse and escorted the Raja to Katiez about six miles from Poona, where he encamped. The young Peshwa at the head of all the troops that could be collected, marched out of Poona and encamped within two miles of the Rajah whence he despatched Nana the Minister to compliment him and beg permission to pay his respects in person. Nana on approaching the Rajah who was seated on a Musnud, in a small tent made his obeisance at a great distance and advanced as tho' to kiss the Raja's feet, but was prevented by the prince, who received him in his arms and ordered him to be seated ; after a very short time spent in acknowledging the honor conferred by the Rajah on the Peshwa in coming thus far, the Rajah ordered him to be invested with a very rich dress of gold tissue, called a doputta ; Nana then begged that the Peshwa might be permitted to pay his respects, to which the Rajah assented ; Nana immediately departed, and returning to the Peshwa caused him to proceed with the whole of his retinue. On approaching the carpets on which the

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\* Battis-Sataie, now in Kolhapur State.

Rajah was seated and which were of great extent, the Peshwa and all the chiefs that accompanied him alighted, and made their obeisance, and when the Peshwa had advanced about half way up the carpets, the Rajah arose, received him in his embrace, and caused him to be seated opposite to himself. After sitting a little while, the Rajah placed a string of pearls round his neck, and a serpesb and turreh of pearls in his turband, on which he took his leave and returned with about 100 horse to Poona, leaving Nana with all the rest of his retinue to attend the Rajah, who thus accompanied also entered the city the same day; no chief was suffered to carry an aftab-ghire,\* or umbrella, on the occasion. On the Raja's entering the house prepared for him in town, Nana presented himself for leave to depart, on which occasion the Rajah threw a string of flowers round his neck which completed the ceremonies of the day. During the Raja's residence in Poona, he went several times to the Peshwa's palace, by whom he was always met at the outer gate. The Rajah I am told is of a very dark colour, about twenty-three years of age, remarkable for nothing, but riding well. He has two wives and two children, a son and daughter.

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**No. 51**—Mr. Yvon sends news of fighting between the Marathas and Tipu.

FROM—Mr. L. A. YVON,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET.

*Maratha Camp, 21st January 1787.*

Sir,

Yesterday I had the honour to receive your favour of the 12th inst. by your cossids and now dispatch them to communicate you what has occurred since my last of the 15th, wherein I related you the loss of that formidable fort Bahaderbundah, as also the best part of the army's advancing towards the enemy with intention to give them battle the 14th, their returning (after marching near 6 coss and as many back to camp) much fatigued from 7 to 12 at night, and part of the infantry the next morning.

The 16th the enemy having marched near two coss towards our army, Tippoo resolved to attack us the same night: Hurrypunt Perkiah having timely intelligence of his intent resolved to march off to deceive him, accordingly between the hours of 8 & 9 all the baggage was ordered to march; about 12 the enemy were discovered by our horse picquets on the right wing who immediately fired a rocket in the air for signal which was answered from headquarters when the whole was ordered to march off, and the picquets to cover the army. At first we marched by the left when after one in the morning a body of the enemy was discovered by our horse about two miles in front of the centre of our army,

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\* A sun-shade



two or three times overlooked some improper conduct of this kind, I thought the present instance too insulting to be passed over, and accordingly made a formal representation of it to the Minister, who, immediately issued strict and positive orders to all the officers in authority in the city, charging them under pain of his severest displeasure, to prevent all differences and altercations with my people, and begged I would send a person to witness the punishment of the person or persons, who had ill-treated the sentinel.

Wishing to avoid the appearance of being actuated by resentment, and thinking the opportunity a good one to fix that character of moderation and forbearance, which on all occasions I have studied to establish, I returned an answer to Nana, thanking him for the readiness with which he had attended to my representation, and complimenting his liberal observance of equity and the rights of hospitality, at the same time remarking that the steps he had taken to prevent future altercations, and the offer he had made of punishing the present offenders, were fully satisfactory to me, as enabling me to convince my superiors, that I had not been inattentive to the privileges of my station, and the security of the people under my protection. To this I received a complimentary answer, and I hope this little *eclaircissement* will prevent future disputes.

**No. 53**—Yvon's letter to Malet, giving an account of his situation in the Maratha Camp.

FROM—LOUIS ANTHONY YVON,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET.

*Maratha Camp, 1st February 1787.*

At the same time I was writing my private letter to give you a proper description how I left the Hon'ble Company's service, I knew it was proper to mention the ship's name I went on board of to go to England; but by my imbecility I assure you have forgot; and all as I can do to recollect is in vain, but if you will please to remark, I have mentioned the Captain's name Wm. Thompson Commander of the ship who arrived at Bombay in the month of December or beginning of January 1775, as I have been informed since. The said ship was lost in a trading voyage, and Captain Thompson with some of his officers returned to Bombay; and to the best of my knowledge Capt. Breckell told me he was at Bombay in the year 1785 and that he has remained in India since he was cast away. I recollect also the Chief Mate's name Mr. Nicholi and Lieut. Mason who was on board at the same time in order to go to England, and who promised me that if the ship was to remain in the country he would have gone on board the first ship that was bound for Europe and make interest with Captain Thompson to let me go with him. This is the only description



I can give as I have forgot the name of the ship. Sometimes when I am considering, I think it is the Hector Indiaman. But I cannot affirm whether it is the right name or not.

You have been pleased to desire me to point out some method in which you might be of service to me. I am happy to deserve your attention and honoured in obeying your orders. and also most gratefully return you thanks for your kind recommendation to Lord Cornwallis.

P.S.—For many days past I have enjoyed but a very indifferent state of health and am at present so weak that I have scarce been able to write these; for several days I have taken but very little nourishment and for several months no appetite. This proceeds I believe on account of not taking proper medicines for some years past. I think therefore a little tatar emetic will be of service as also a dose of physic or two and a small quantity of bitter infusion. I beg leave to trouble you for the same as I am in great need of these articles which cannot be had in camp. I forward also a letter for Mr. Burette, be pleased Sir, to forward the same to Bombay. This day numbers of foragers have been taken by the enemy and it is reported have marched two coss from the river towards us. This disaster may probably have been done by the Pandarees but we have also heard a smart firing of cannon this afternoon.

The foragers taken by the enemy yesterday were by their Pandarees but the cannon we heard firing I believe was a salute, as yesterday was the Noovmuns' feast. As Ragoopunt's letter was not ready by particular reasons he had, the Hircarrah was detained and therefore I have opened the packet to insert this last paragraph. With the greatest respect am.

**No. 54**—The Governor General and Council lay down the aims of British policy in India and convey instructions to the Resident at Poona how he is to conduct his office. This is evidently an explanation of the lines laid down by the Directors in their communication of 21st July 1786 above. Malet is requested to complete his history of the Marathas.

FROM—LORD CORNWALLIS AND MEMBERS OF HIS COUNCIL,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 26th February 1787.*

Sir,

We observe that in many of your letters which concern subjects of a political nature, you have introduced circumstances and explanations relative to your pecuniary wants. We wish you to avoid doing so in future and to communicate these to our secretary, who will lay your letters before us. He has been instructed to acquaint you with our resolutions on such of your advices already acknowledged as respect the allowances of your Residency and the means of discharging them.

We shall confine our answer to the letters before us to such parts of your correspondence only as require it without going into discussions of facts and concurrences upon which our orders and opinions are not necessary to your future conduct, but we desire you not to infer from this omission that we are not sensible of the diligence with which you have detailed to us whatever you deemed worthy of our attention, either as being of immediate consequence in itself or as it might enable us to form our judgment on the course of events and of their importance from the circumstances that gave rise to them. We approve much of these full communications and hope you will continue them.

In our instructions of the 7th December 1785 some points were recommended to your secret investigation, the result of which we should be glad to be acquainted with as your enquiries are finished. We observe by your letter to Lord Cornwallis of the 8th November that you were employed in preparing an epitome of the History of the Mahratta Empire from its foundation to the present time. We doubt not that this will be found a very useful work and request that you will transmit it to us as soon as you have completed it.

Among the general objects of your ministry we are sure that you will consider it of essential moment to restore the cordiality and good humour which subsisted until late years and, we hope, is now reviving between the Company's and the Peshwa's Government. Assure the Peshwa and his Ministers that one universal principle never to be departed from either in the present condition of the native powers or in any future revolutions amongst them, is that we are completely satisfied with the possessions we already have, and will engage in no war for the purpose of further acquisitions, but let them be impressed with a proper conviction that we are watchful guardians of the Company's rights and honour, as we shall be active supporters of them in cases of necessity and that we have the means of maintaining them with effect. The line prescribed by the Secret Committee in the extract of their letter of the 22nd September which you have transmitted to us, points out clearly and distinctly the rule of conduct which should guide us during the hostilities between the Marrattas and Tippoo Sultan. These orders evince the propriety of those which Lord Cornwallis gave you on the 27th September and 2nd October, and we find ourselves warranted in instructing you to notice to the Peshwa and his Ministers when you have a fit and convenient opportunity, that while peace is our object, we must yet be vigilant observers of the conduct of all our European rivals particularly the French, and that although a perfect harmony now subsists between the British and other nations in Europe if the actual engagements or future views of the French should require them to join Tippoo against the Marathas, we mean in declared force, not by admitting hirelings and adventurers to act in his army, we shall think ourselves at liberty to throw the aid of our force into the opposite scale.

Such a declaration may not be unacceptable to the Marratta Government, if they have not yet entirely recovered from the disappointment which our former denial of assistance naturally occasioned. But when you notify our instructions which you should not do in any formal manner but during one of your common interviews on public business, it may answer a good purpose to observe also, that independently of the interest we profess to hold in the prosperity of the Marratta empire, our declared principle is to counteract the views of a rival nation to subvert our power, and therefore if the Marratta should form any engagement with the French to assist them against Tippoo, we must reluctantly yield to the necessity of crushing its effects by the best means we can command. The obvious intent of this notice is to put the Minister on his guard against the intrigues of French agents at the Court of Poona and to preclude a serious attention to their offers. We certainly do not wish to discourage that sort of intercourse between them which leads to no new grants of territory or advantages of commerce and can be useful in preserving peace, but while such agents continue to be employed there as those who have been at the Durbar of late years, we shall have no reason to encourage the idea that their intentions are so pacific.

We wish to pursue the interchanges of trade with every country in India so as to make it beneficial to them and to the Company and to render those who are within the Company's immediate administration completely happy under the protection of the British power. You may assert with confidence that we should refrain from all interference in the contentions which may arise among the native princes, unless called for by the stipulations of any existing treaty and that we shall not take advantage of their jealousies of one another in order to increase the British influence by the depression of any one of them.

You will of course apprise us if the Minister should have any serious determination to send a deputation to England and endeavour to discover the object of it that we may communicate them to the Secret Committee.

As you have made no mention, since your letter to Lord Cornwallis of the 8th of December, of the expectation of a Vakeel from the Prince\* at the Court of Poona, we imagine that the report of one being soon to arrive there was without foundation. We do not know what purpose such a deputation could answer, but if it could be made and you should find it intended to facilitate the Shahzada's return to Delhi by the interposition of the Mahratta State, you are to discourage any attempt that may be made to draw him from the Company's protection.

Having already stated to you our views in respect to interchanges of trade, it occurs to us that probably the trade between the Maratta

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\* Jawanbakht, son of Shah Alam.

country and the Company's territories in its neighbourhood would admit of much extension. We desire to receive your opinion upon this subject, and wish you to include it in your correspondence with the President in Council at Bombay.

We observe by your letter of the 28th December that you expected Captain Reynolds soon at Poona and that as the tract between Poona and Surat was very little known, his journey would greatly add to the ample stock of materials which he has already collected for improving the geography of Hindustan. We certainly are desirous of benefiting by the abilities of Captain Reynolds in this line of service, but he must be instructed to make his surveys with care so as not to give offence to the Poona Government who may not wish to have the country explored and may be jealous of it.

The conduct of Bujung Row Vakeel of the Nabob Walab Jah at the Court of Poona as represented in your letter to Sir Archibald Campbell of the 27th December, has been so improper and of so dangerous a tendency that we doubt not the Nabob will immediately recall him. This has been strongly pressed by the Governor General in a letter which his Lordship has written to Sir Archibald Campbell and we hope that the sentiments expressed in it will have the good effect of preventing the Nabob from allowing of any negotiation on the part of his Highness which has not been previously approved by the Government of Fort St. George.

Meer Mahomed Hossein our agent at Hyderabad has been instructed to communicate to you regularly whatever may occur at that Court, and be proper for your information, according to the desire expressed in your letter to Lord Cornwallis of the 26th November.

The distinct accounts which you have sent to us from your intelligence\* in the Mahratta Camp of the movements and operations of the two armies entitles him to some recompense, and we have no objection to your making him a small monthly allowance which we prefer to any other kind of reward for his trouble.

It appears to us that you have mistaken our letter of the 30th October in respect to Zemal-Abi-Deen-Khan. We declined giving him in any express or formal manner our permission to return to Bengal, but he was left at liberty to do so or not as he might judge proper. We still leave it at his option. His connection with the Nabob Mahomed Reza Khan was of a private nature, and it is not necessary for this Government nor would it become us to take any cognizance of it.

The Persian Translator has received orders to furnish you with Persian copies and English translations of letters that may be written from time to time to the Poona Durbar.

\* Mr. L. A. Yvon.

**No. 55**—Lord Cornwallis's instructions to Malet about the acceptance of *Mehmance* and the expenses of the Residency are herein conveyed.

FROM—E. HAY, SECRETARY,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET.

*Fort William, 26th February 1787.*

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council to communicate to you his Lordship's resolutions on those parts of your letters hitherto unanswered which relate to pencuniary subjects.

In reply to your letter of the 31st of December in which you mention that you have been frequently importuned to accept the compliment generally known by the term of *Mehmance*, or an allowance made at all Indian courts to Foreign Ministers, and amounting to 600 Rs. per mensem, Lord Cornwallis directs me to acquaint you that whatever may be the usage in respect to native *Vakeels* at the different courts of India, he does not think it consistent with the dignity of the Company's Government that their representatives at those courts should be paid in any manner or in any form except by the authority which deutes them; but his Lordship is willing to depart from this principle so far as to authorize you to receive the allowance you mention in the only case of your refusal not admitting of any explanation of it which should preclude the Minister from taking offence at it

In respect to the period from which your personal allowances are to be accounted for at the Buxy's office, I am directed to acquaint you that you are to account there for them from the 16th June, the date of the order sent to you for the purpose.

In your letter to Lord Cornwallis of the 25th January you mentioned bills drawn on the Resident at Benares for 25,000 Rs. at 92 Rs. of Poona = 100 at Benares, and that you were not to receive payment of this sum until the Shroff should be advised that the bills were honored. The Governor General directs me to acquaint you that he considers these terms as an unreasonable exaction of the Shroff who required them. His Lordship at this distance cannot limit the rate of exchange or the conditions of bills which you draw at a moment of difficulty without any resource to supply your expenses excepting such as you can prevail on the shroffs to grant; but he relies on your obtaining the most favourable terms in your power and assures himself that your next drafts on the Resident of Benares will be conditioned more reasonably.

Upon the general subject of expense Lord Cornwallis directs me to observe that he cannot too strongly draw your attention to economy and that your disbursements appear to be very large. His Lordship does not wish to stint a public minister in necessary expenses; but if your charges can admit of reduction he is confident that you will curtail them.

A statement has been called for of the expense of Lieut.-Colonel Upton's deputation to the Court of Poona in the year 1775-76 and when furnished will enable government to compare those charges with yours.

**No. 56**—Mr. Yvon gives details to Malet of the treaty of peace concluded between the Marathas and Tipu, and estimates their gains and losses.

FROM—MR. YVON,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET.

*Maratha Camp, 14th March 1787.*

Sir,

Yesterday near 7 in the evening I received your favour of the 5th instant and I hope before this you have received my last of the 26th, the same day Tipoo's ambassadors arrived, communicating you the same intelligence.

The late treaty between the Marrattas and Tipoo has been concealed in such a manner, that it has been almost impossible to come at the truth of the result ; but according to circumstances, I might have in my last given you near the same relation as in this . yet I thought best to wait until I was more certain.

The Marratta Government having found that nothing advantageous could be expected at this time in carrying on the war with Tippoo at last gave ear to the propositions of Peace. Holcar and Rastiah being appointed arbitrators, matters have been settled and agreed upon according to their judgment, and for the present the Government has considered this the wisest method . but it appears and is suspected this treaty of peace cannot last long, tho' it is thought to be stipulated for the term of three years.

The three Korod of rupees I mentioned Tippoo was to pay, will not come to half the sum (and the smallest share it is supposed will fall to the government) ; also in lieu of restoring any of the concessions he has now, that formerly belonged to the Marrattas, he has demanded Gudjuntragur which has been consented, for the delivering up the famous fort Nargoond, and the releasement of Kalopant who governed that country and defended himself so bravely against Tipoo's Army.

It is affirmed that Musheer-Ul-Mulk and Shum-sheer-Daola have set out from Hyderabad about the 7th of this Moon , in order to consult and settle affairs relating to Nizamaly Khan with the Mariattas , and it is thought they will meet the Army at Vizapoor.

Since the 8th ultimo the army has marched but three coss and are now encamped about 5 coss distance southward of Mudoogul All this time the tribute has been gathering through the districts of Cannagheeree It is expected we shall soon march from hence (very likely to-morrow) towards the Kishtna and there halt until Tippoo sends the 2nd payment.

The treasure arrived with the ambassador is thought to be no more than 15 lacs, and the Sircar has not as yet taken account of it.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect.

*P S*—I had almost forgot mentioning a contest arisen about Tippoo's titles as he seems to insist upon being acknowledged and styled the *Bawdsha* of the Deccan, and wants the Marratta Government to sign the present treaty to him as such. This difference arising after affairs being settled has caused the army to remain here so long, until they consulted about this request and inform the government thereof. This report appears to be true by such a numerous army remaining so long here, distressing their country (and so much in want of forage for several days past) after they had concluded the treaty of peace.

Having had the misfortune of a relapse of sickness and my health much impaired, I propose setting out for Poona a few days after the new moon, especially if the camp marches towards the Kistnah according as is expected which will denote all hostilities at an end for this season.

15th March 1787. By all appearances there is something yet wanting on Tippoo's side to satisfy the Marrattas; whether it is for money they wait for, or some other obstacle is hard to know. There is also a slight intelligence of Nizam's troops remaining encamped between Rachoor and Moodoogul and that a body of Horse and Foot from the Marratta army are to join them as auxiliary troops. The foragers went out early this morning towards the river Kistna in the Solapoor country and are not expected to return till to-morrow evening, and it is thought we shall not march from hence till after the New Moon.

By the report of 7 European deserters arrived yesterday evening from the enemy, the army is in two bodies Booraunut-Deen-Khan and Mr. Dehallie at Gooda situated on the Tombadra about 25 coss from here, and Tipoo near Ballary about 12 coss farther; and it is said will not tarry many days before he sets out for Syringapatam.

**No. 57**—Articles of peace between the Marathas and Tippu are communicated to Malet in this paper. The War between them was thus concluded.

*Translate paper of intelligence received by Malet.*

*Poona, 24th March 1787.*

Tippoo's vackeel returned to the army the 6th Jimad—Al—Oual (26th Feby.). An agreement has taken place between Tippoo and Hurry Punt. The former has agreed to pay 60 lacs of which 40 are to be paid before the Marratta army recrosses the Kistna, the remainder to be discharged in jewels and various other articles on the army's return to Poona. The territorial arrangements are thus: The Marrattas are to

retain Baddamn'ce and Tippoo is to surrender to them Kittore and Nulgoond. The Marrattas are to restore Gujundur-Ghur to Tippoo who is to retain possession of all the other forts he possesses between the Kishna and Tombudra. This settlement has been made thro' the mediation of Holcar and Rasta Tippoo's vackeel brought with him 4 elephants etc, which have been distributed to sundry chiefs, viz.: to Hurrypunt one elephant, one sirpech, one turra with a dress, to Holcar and Rasta the same. The amount stipulated is not yet paid which has caused the army's remaining 14 days encamped near Moodgul. The vackeel brought 14 lacs with him and has sent a person to his master who is daily expected with the balance.

It is also said that Tippoo's vackeel has represented to Hurry-punt that his master has demands on Adoni which have not been accounted for during 4 years, and that he will be necessitated to use force in which case he expects the Peshwa will not interfere To which Hurrypunt replied that if he would execute the treaty by paying the stipulated sum he would return to Poona, after which he might act as he found expedient.

Tippoo also represented that he had a demand on the Nabob of Shanoor for 3 or 4 years tribute, and that the said Nabob had incurred his displeasure by improper conduct which he should resent and that the Peshwa should not interfere

The vackeel also claims that in a letter to his master the address is unequal to his dignity. He shall in future be written to with additional title to which Hurrypunt replied that it must rest on the Peshwa's decision on his return to Poona.

When the Marrattas took Gujundur-Chur a few months ago, he delivered it up to Daulut Rao Goarpurra brother of the late Morrarrao Raja of Gutti to which family it originally belonged, for a consideration of 2 lacs; on Hurrypunt's redemanding it in consequence of the article to surrender it to Tippoo, Daulut Rao demurred demanding to know how he was to be reimbursed the 2 lacs of Rupees he had paid for it. Hurrypunt assured him his 2 lacs should be returned.

Tippoo has recrossed the Tombadra and is encamped at Goregaum, Burhun-Al-Deen and another chief remain with a body of forces on this side. The Marratta army will remain here till the return of the messengers who are gone for the money

Rung Rao Oorekur is arrived with 20 horses from Poona.

*Note*—Malet's comments on the results of the war between the Marathas and Tipu Sultan and the intrigues of the French in that connection will be found in letters dated 3rd and 27th June 1787 at the end of this section.



**No. 58**—Malet informs the Governor General of the intention of the Poona Court to remove Bajirao from Kopergaum to some hill-fort for security. Gulzar-khan's arrival at Poona is also reported.

FROM—Mr. C. W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 24th March 1787.*

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I have heard it whispered here that the Ministry had it for some time in agitation to remove Badje Row the son of the late Ragonath Row from Copergaum, an open town, his present place of residence about fifty coss from this place, on the river Gunga to some fort or place of greater security, but that the measure has been dropt in consequence of the disapproval of Mahadjee Sindia. You may recollect, My Lord and gentlemen, that at the convention of Worgauan Mahadjee Sindia procured Badje Row to be appointed Dewan to his cousin Mhada Row Sawai the Peshwa and at the same time caused himself to be appointed Naib to the infant Diwan. I am informed that Badje Row is a youth of very promising abilities. I cannot absolutely vouch for the truth of the above ; though from its very interesting nature and its very extensive possible consequences I have thought it worthy your notice.

Gulzar Khan, a well-known partisan of the late Ragonath Rao and who long caused much embarrassment to this government by carrying on petty war in Kandeis, lately arrived here on an invitation and assurance of safety signified under Nana's own hand. This circumstance may probably be disagreeable to Mhadje Sindia, as the nephew of Gulzar Khan who is married to his friend Rannie Cawn's daughter was in consequence of the disturbances caused by Gulzar Khan put in possession of the family jaghire, whose tenure will be in some measure affected by his uncle's reconciliation to government.

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**No. 59**—Malet reports to the Governor General Nana's efforts to organize the Maratha Government and the principal confederates whose present attitude is defined.

FROM—Mr. C. W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 21st April 1787.*

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The extreme jealousy of this Government, the unceasing vigilance with which all my actions are observed, the solicitude with which the Durbar discourages my intercourse with the inhabitants operating in direct opposition to the accomplishment of those different parts of my instructions, one of which so strongly directs the conciliation of the goodwill of this

government, the other the acquisition of certain points of information alluded to in your letter now before me, have taught me the necessity of that caution so particularly enjoined in my original instructions and forced me to proceed with a degree of delicacy and circumspection which has necessarily delayed my enquiries.

From what I can collect or observe the principal attention of this Durbar will next be directed to domestic arrangements and to a vigilant observance of events by which it may be enabled to establish its authority over its principal members. The aggrandizement of Scindia is certainly cause of jealousy to the Durbar, his great power, his claim to the particular friendship of Nana and his pretensions to the first place in the Poona Ministry as the Naib of the nominal Dewan Badge Raw the son of Ragonath Row, must convince this Durbar that it is safer to permit him uninterruptedly pursue his career, in which there are many circumstances favourable to their views and trust to the chapter of accidents for benefiting by his conquests than by checking them by unreasonable claims draw on themselves his resentment and by his interference risk the success of all their domestic arrangements for the full reestablishment of the Bramin power.

These I believe are the considerations by which Nana is influenced and by which the Durbar will be regulated with respect to Sindia, though I am informed that Hurry Punt is an advocate for more decided measures.

Holcar's power is not so formidable as to cause much jealousy. His jaghire has been greatly decried by long absence and that absence having been on the actual service of the Sircar he probably will, if his late conduct during the negotiations is not made a plea for further vexation, be permitted to return to his Jaghire.

It is I think very probable that Futtu Sing will be the first domestic object of magnitude on which the Sircar will try its force, his connection with the Company during the Maratta War, his reputed wealth, his personal insignificance(?), his default in sending his quota of troops during the war with Tippoo, the importunity of his brother Govind Row for the interference of the Durbar in his behalf, all strongly point him out as a proper object on whose humiliation to raise a new stock of authority and a supply of treasure.

The Berar Government under its present head is too strong to present any prospect of success to this government in an open attempt on its tranquillity, but as great confusion and a civil war took place between Sabajee and Moodajee on the death of their brother Janojee in which Sabajee was slain, so do I understand there is every reason to apprehend a like scene among his sons on the death of Moodajee who is old and infirm.

**No. 60**—The Governor General affirms the Company's rights to the Guntoor Sarkar and asks Malet to take note of the position in his dealings with the Darbar.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND COUNCIL,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 25th April 1787*

The Company's right to the Guntoor Sircar on the death of Basaulut Jung is clearly established by the treaty concluded with the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan in 1768. The demand was not made when Bissaulut Jung died but the right has not been given up although this government suspended the exercise of it, and we have it in contemplation to claim the surrender of the Guntoor Sircar. We send you this information that if any circumstances relative to the Guntoor Sircar in which the Company have an interest should be suggested by the Mahrattas in your conferences with them, you may be apprised of our intentions to defend the Company rights to the Guntoor Sircar without however declaring or even hinting our resolution to require the profession of it.

**No. 61**—The Governor of Fort St George intimates to Malet the death of Raja Tuljaji and the installation of Amarsingh in the Kingdom of Tanjore.

FROM—ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR OF FORT ST. GEORGE,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort St George, 21st May 1787.*

I observe by your letters that the points remaining in dispute between the Mahrattas and Tippoo had not been then finally adjusted. I have not received any late authentic intelligence on the subject of their negotiations; but by what I hear from Hyderabad it seems to be understood at the Soubah's Durbar that matters are arranged between all the parties on this subject. However I hope soon to hear further from you.

The behaviour of Bujung Rao mentioned in your last letter is of a piece with his former reprehensible mode of conducting himself. I have communicated the whole to the Nabob who is perfectly sensible of the impropriety of his behaviour, but as I take it for granted that he must be for some time gone from Poona, his name is unworthy of further notice. I must however express my entire approbation of the manner in which you have conducted yourself towards him throughout.

I am obliged to you for your information relative to the French frigates that are upon the Malabar Coast and shall be glad to receive from time to time all the intelligence that you can collect concerning them. I would

also consider it a desirable thing if you could form some plan of procuring information of anything material that may be going forward at Mangalore and Mahe I should imagine that by a little good management at Tellicherry information might be had of everything that is going on at those places, and I will cheerfully defray any expense that may attend your experiments in that pursuit

By my accounts from Europe dated in September, the utmost harmony subsisted between the French Court and ours. We cannot however be too vigilant in watching their intrigues in this country particularly with Tippoo.

It escaped my attention to mention to you in my late letters that Tuljajee the late Rajah of Tanjore died the end of January last A few days previous to his death, when his mental and bodily faculties were reduced to the lowest ebb, he took the hasty resolution of adopting a boy of 9 years of age the only son of a very distant relation of the family, endeavouring by this means to supercede the rights of his brother, Amer Sing commonly called Rama Swamy This unguarded proceeding of the Rajah gave rise to a question of great delicacy. It was resolved by this government that I should go myself to Tanjore and see the succession settled according to justice, in consequence of which I went there, the beginning of April, when, finding that considerable doubts were entertained as to the legality of the adoption, I convened twelve learned Pundits of the most respectable character in the country and took their answers separately to various questions, which I proposed to them, the result of which was that the adoption was found irregular and defective in many particulars, and that according to the gentoo laws the rights of the brother Amer Sing were superior to those of the adopted boy. whereupon I placed the brother Amer Sing upon the Musnud of Tanjore to the great joy and amidst the acclamations of the people who were delighted at the justice with which the power of the English nation was administered.

It must give satisfaction to the Court of Poona to have this measure announced to them, as they will thereby perceive that the English nation, who have declared themselves to be the firm and steady protectors of the Tanjore family, have exercised their authority in rendering impartial justice to the present Rajah, agreeable to the laws of his own country.

Exclusive of the satisfaction which I experienced in bringing this matter to a happy issue, the reflection of placing on the Musnud of his ancestors, a prince descended from the exalted race of the Mahrattas who enjoys every virtuous principle which can render his kingdom prosperous and his subjects happy, has increased the satisfaction to a very great degree.

**No. 62**—The transfer of Kirkpatrick from the Court of Scindia is communicated to Malet by the Governor General and Council. The subject is fully treated in Vol. I.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND COUNCIL,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET.

*Fort William, 23rd May 1787.*

Our Secretary has also laid before us your letters to him of the 19th January.

We cannot allow much weight to the communication made to you by Behro Punt as advised in your letter to us of the 5th March of a proposal from Tippoo Saheb to Nanna that they should unite in attacking the English. But as Nanna is said to have professed a resolution not to violate the treaty between the Company and the Mahratta State while it was duly observed by the English, we are persuaded that you did not omit such an occasion in your conference with Behro Punt of acknowledging this faithful regard to treaty on the part of the Minister and assuring him that our measures should be carefully directed to the preservation of it on the part of the Company.

We wish you to send us an exact account of the terms of the convention between Tippoo and the Mahrattas as soon as it may be in your power.

Our late advices from Capt Kirkpatrick of which we enclose extracts lay some stress on a supposed design of Tucojee Holcar to visit the countries to the westward which have been subjected to Mahajee Scindia and to be troublesome to the future operations of that chief. If this report is well founded we desire that you will transmit to us in cypher an account of the particulars with which it is connected as far as you may deem them of any possible consequence to the interests of the Company or the Nabob Vizeer.

We think it proper to inform you that some circumstances of private disagreement between Capt. Kirkpatrick and Mahajee Scindia make it expedient in our opinion that the former should not continue his present office. As it is not improbable that on this occasion reports may be propagated to impress an idea that some public difference has arisen between this Government and Mahajee Scindia, you are to endeavour to prevent their effects by a positive disavowal of the truth of those reports whenever you hear them, and an assurance that the Company's relation to Mahajee Scindia and the Mahratta State has suffered no change. For the same purpose as well as from motives of respect to the Mahratta government, it will be proper that you should take an early occasion of advising Nana Furnavees that Capt. Kirkpatrick does not remain with Scindia and mentioning the reason. You will be duly informed when a successor is appointed to that Residency; and in the meantime the duplicates of your despatches by the way of Masulipatam which have been

frequently sent through Scindia's Camp are to be forwarded by the way of Benares.

We are much pleased with the account you have transmitted to the Governor General of the rise and progress of the Marhatta Empire as far as you have proceeded in the narrative, and as your situation must give you many advantages in collecting materials for this work we shall be glad to receive a continuation of it as your leisure may allow you to furnish it.

Lord Cornwallis will consult with Sir Archibald Campbell on your proposition that Nizam Ally Khan should be requested to admit the free passage of a Dawk through his Highness' Country between Poona and Mussulipatam and you will be advised of the result.

**No. 63**—Malet vividly describes the sight of Satis committed by two Maratha women near his tent at the confluence of the rivers, instances as he calls them, of the strength and weakness of the human mind,

FROM—MR. C. W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS.

*Poona, 3rd June 1787.*

Under the 9th ultimo I had the honour to forward through Capt. Kirkpatrick duplicate of my respects of the 5th.

I have now the honour to present your Lordship copy of a paper received from Mr. Yvon who arrived here some time ago. Though your Lordship may be fully acquainted with the intrigues of the French from the authentic materials possessed by government, I have in justice to Mr. Yvon, taken the liberty to trouble you with this paper as a proof of his information and of his zeal to convert it now and at all times to the good of his country, since it appears that during Mr. Crommelin's residence at Goa, he furnished him with such intelligence as came to his knowledge.

It escaped me to mention in a former address (as I intended) having seen two Mahratta women, one about 20 the other not 30 years old, perform the astonishing ceremony of *Suttee*, or devoting themselves to the flames on receiving the news of the death of their husbands, who died in the army of the disorder then raging in it, and who were in very humble stations, so that the powerful impression of grief for the loss of a dear friend present to the senses, or the powerful impulse of family pride, cannot have precipitated them to so inconceivable a pitch of enthusiasm.

This horrid and astonishing act is performed by the Mahratta women by throwing themselves headlong into a pit about 14 feet deep, about 4 of which are filled up with the burning remains of a large quantity of wood

previously put in and reduced to a fierce fire of embers for the reception of the victim, and on her precipitating herself into it, after going through various preparatory ceremonies of bathing, circumambulating the pit, etc., large quantities of straw, oil, wood and other inflammable material are thrown on her; at the same instant a great clamour is raised by the populace which joined to the sound of trumpets, drums and the barbarous music which accompanied the procession to the fatal spot, effectually drowns the shrieks of the expiring devotee. The two in question, who seem to have been closely connected in the bonds of private friendship threw themselves at the same moment into two pits dug for them close to each other. The method observed by the Brahmin women is different; an apartment is made in the funeral pile, in which the body of the deceased is deposited, and into which the victim enters (after performing the requisite ceremonies of ablution, etc.) through a small aperture left for the purpose. The beams which support the upper part of the pile and are secured by ligaments, are then let down, and at the same moment the combustible materials with which the cell is filled are set fire to.

Several of these melancholy and inconceivable instances of the strength and weakness of the human mind have happened during my residence here, and in other places, but the one above described is the first I ever saw, which happened on the 26th of March last close to my tents, where I am sorry to find I am likely to be an involuntary spectator of many more, being at the conflux of two rivers a circumstance grateful to the prejudices of these people in performing the purifications requisite to such acts and their funeral rites.

**No. 64**—*Malet communicates to the Governor General the reception by the Peshwa of the commanders of the armies returning from the war and the terms agreed upon between the two parties.*

FROM—MR. C. W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 3rd June 1787.*

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On the 31st ultimo Tuckojee Holcar and Hurry Punt arrived and encamped near the city. In the evening the Peshwa proceeded to a pavilion pitched for the purpose about a mile without the town, where he received the two chiefs, advancing on their entrance to the skirt of the carpets, where he embraced Holcar and all his companions denominated Mankurree, i.e., those entitled to attention. Hurry Punt was next admitted to the honour of an embrace, but the Peshwa's advancing without the town and standing to embrace, was a piece of respect paid to Holcar and in general to the great *Mahratta* chiefs, neither Hurry Punt nor indeed scarce any other Brahmin being entitled to it. The interview

lasted about an hour, when the Peshwa returned to town, accompanied by the Zerree Putka or standard of gold cloth, and the Ser-Nobut or elephant drum and standard. Holcar returned to his tent, as did Hurry Punt, as it was not an auspicious hour to enter the city, nor are the stars yet more favourable so that the latter remains at one of his gardens in the environs. Holcar, it is reported, will proceed in a few days to his town of Bauhgaum,\* about 15 coss hence, but I as yet hear nothing of his going toward his jaghire in Malwa

On the 2nd instant Chinnajee Bapoo, the son of Moodajee Bhonsle, arrived and encamped at Hadapsar about 5 miles from town, and in the evening received the same compliment as Holcar, the Peshwa advancing to the same spot to receive him. If the Minister has no objection I propose exchanging visits with these chieftains Chinnajee, I am informed, has it in charge from his father to come to an explanation with the Durbar on the subject of Gurey-Mundela for which sunnuds were granted to his father Moodajee last year, on condition of his paying thirty-six lacks of Rupees and one of his sons residing with the Peshwa with two thousand horse. Six lacs of the stipulated sums, I am told, have been paid, but the brothers Gungadur and Balajee Govin have positively refused to surrender the fort in question, which not long since they reduced at a great expense of men and money. Sindia, I am informed, supports them in their refusal and I believe the Minister is not much displeased at their disobedience, so that Moodajee unable to enforce compliance with the sunnuds is not likely to receive much benefit from them

That part of the army which is now encamped in the neighbourhood of Poona (both horses and men) seems in a miserable condition, and the complaints of the hardships they have sustained from pestilence, scarcity of provisions, and want of pay are loud and general. From these circumstances and the accounts of the dissensions among the chiefs, which were near ending in an open rupture and which were with difficulty prevented by the most earnest entreaties and supplications of Hurry Punt, lead me to conclude that this Durbar has been very fortunate in procuring a peace on the present terms

I find that neither Quittore nor Nulgoond are restored to the original Zemindars, whose families have received assignments of land in the district subject to those forts. Trimback Rao Darorekar† commands for the Peshwa in Nulgoond, and Appagee Punt Firtore in Quittore. There are about 2,000 horse and 200 foot at each of these places. Buddammai is held by the Rasta family, and Mahdaji Punt Behra, the son of Gunnes Punt, has the chief command of the troops stationed at Nulgoond and Quittore. Persaram Bhow, the great southern jaghiredar, whose capital is Merridge solicited charge of those places and is, I am informed, a good deal disgusted at being disappointed.

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Wafgan

† Darekar



**No. 65**—It seems Malet obtained this interesting account of the French and British struggles up to 1784, at Poona through some news-agents and forwarded it to the Governor General. The account shows how Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan both tried their utmost to put down the English. The bitterness with which Tipu pursued his plans against the British seems to have persuaded Cornwallis to annihilate Tipu's power.

*Remarks on the French correspondence with the Country Princes  
against the English interests, enclosed in the letter from the  
Resident at Poona.*

*Poona, 3rd June 1787*

The French having for many years past exerted their utmost to excite the country powers against the English, representing to them the danger they were in of soon being oppressed by them, if proper measures were not taken to prevent their encroaching power, met always with favourable answers, with the promise of assistance as soon as the French forces should appear in India. This project, so well contrived to drive the English out of this part of the world, gave the French such hopes of success that they promised themselves a complete conquest over them in a short time; and that being acknowledged by the Indian Princes their protector, would infallibly give them a good footing, and enable them to get possession of at least half of the English dominions, especially on the sea coast. The time appointed for the declaration of war drawing on, they found the difficulty of obtaining a confirmation of the succour the black princes had promised them, and, to carry on so great a project as they had formed, their principal view was to secure themselves a formidable ally who could supply them with money to defray their expenses. Hyder Ally Khan beholding the English with jealousy, as the only power that could prevent his conquering the Deccan, was soon brought over to the French interest; and matters being agreed on, he wrote to the King of France, complaining of the encroaching power of the English, their daily making new conquests and oppressing the courtly powers, to prevent which, he begged His Majesty would send him forces by sea and land to make war against them, by which the English would be in a short time subdued. Those who were empowered to negotiate this important business having represented that Hyder Ally was the only power that could be advantageous to the King's interest, in this part of the world, his Majesty accepted his propositions, styled him his trusty ally, and promised to send him considerable forces by sea and land. Hyder persuaded himself that their assistance would answer his designs, and therefore thought it necessary to engage the Nabobs Nizam Ally Khan and Bessaulut Jung in his interest, by representing to them the necessity of opposing the encroaching power of the English, or they would soon conquer the whole country; and at the same time declared his intentions of commencing hostilities, which he hoped would meet with their approval. His plan was, that, if they did not offer him assistance, he might prevail on the Nizam not to interfere, which he

did without much difficulty. Fortune also seemed to favour his designs, for he found that the Nizam was very little inclined for war, and at the same time knew that Jaffral-Daula had revolted, and raised an army of 50,000 men to oppose his master's seizing upon his country. The Mahiatta Government also was embroiled in a civil war, which gave Hyder an opportunity to take several of their formidable places, and the English having granted protection to Ragobah were also engaged in a war with the Mahrattas. This circumstance proved the greatest disadvantage to the English, as they did not succeed in reinstating Ragobah, whereby they sustained considerable losses, for had they not been enbroiled in the Mahrattah War, they would have been able to destroy Hyder's army, and take his whole country. The Government of Madras having received orders from His Britannick Majesty to commence hostilities against the French without loss of time, General Sir Hector Munro was ordered to assemble the army with all possible diligence, and attack Pondicherry. Hyder at this time was besieging Chittle-droog, when the French Governor applied for relief, but notwithstanding their continual and pressing addresses to him (as also to Nizam Ally Khan) to come to their assistance, yet he did not think it a proper opportunity, as he was willing to see them in the greatest necessity before he would interfere, that he might have a better occasion on the arrival of their forces to succour them and curb them at the same time. He therefore excused his not coming with the haste he could wish, as he was besieging a considerable place, which he hoped to take in a few days, and then he would prepare to march to their assistance, and make the English raise the siege, recommending to them at the same time to defend themselves to the last extremity, for that they might depend he would soon be with them. But with these hopes they lost Pondicherry and all the settlements they had in this part of the world, Hyder soon after returning from his conquest to Seringapattam, thought himself powerful enough to overcome the English without the assistance of the French, and conceiving this a proper opportunity, determined to undertake the enterprise. Accordingly he made all the preparations he judged necessary, and having assembled an army of 260,000 men, marched against the English with all possible expedition towards Arcot, where he had success for some time by plundering, burning and destroying the country, and cutting off several of their detachments. But the brave General Coote, coming from Bengal, soon put a stop to his career, and having collected an army of 12,000 men by his great conduct defeated this formidable enemy. Soon after a body of French troops, about 3,500 commanded by Monsieur DuChimin, found an opportunity to land at Porto Novo, whom Hyder gladly received, immediately supplying them with money and everything requisite for taking the field, as he began now to think he was in need of their assistance to carry on his project. Monsieur DuChimin gave Hyder great hopes of success, and assured him that Monsieur Bussy would shortly arrive

with the remainder of the army. But notwithstanding this strong reinforcement of European troops, it is to be observed that Hyder during the remainder of his life, had not the least success in any of his attempts but was defeated and forced to abandon his encampment whenever the British forces came to close cannonading. The English beginning to attack Hyder's territories on the Mallabar Coast, obliged him to keep a strong army in that quarter to oppose them, but soon after a handful of troops encamped under the walls of Tellicherry having defeated an army of 20,000 men commanded by Sardar Khan, and taking this general prisoner, Hyder was in such a condition that it is affirmed he himself mentioned that he repented of the enterprise he had undertaken, and indeed it appears so, for soon after he caused Arcot to be demolished, a place he had fortified at a great expence, after he had taken it from Mahomed Ally Khan. Monsieur Bussey's arrival gave Hyder some hopes, though he did not bring the number of troops that were expected. The English having sent a flying army to the Mallabar Coast, Hyder thought it necessary to secure his dominions in that quarter, and sent his eldest son Tippoo to endeavour to destroy what troops the English had there, but he also met with no success. It seems that Hyder on his side was very averse to giving battle any more to the English, but resolved to observe their motions, cut off their detachments if he could come at any, as he had done before, and annoy them till they were in want of provisions (as he knew the distressed situation Madras was in, he thought they could not continue to supply the army), watch an opportunity to fall on them or force them to retreat into Madras. But the Governor having provided against such an unfortunate event, the tyrant must have waited a long time before his project would have taken effect, so that this method and subtle contrivance of making war (which is also the plan of long date with the Mahrattas and other powers when they do not judge it safe to hazard a battle against a well disciplined army, or are unwilling to sustain the loss, though ten times more numerous than their opposers) was of little avail to him, and in the prosecution of it he ended his life, having been afflicted with a cancer for many years, which at this time occasioned his death. A few hours before he expired, he sent for his youngest son Kureem Saheb, and gave him charge of the army, with many exhortations relating to his brother Tippoo, recommending to him to preserve what he had acquired by the sword, and to continue observing the laws he had established for the safety of his government, and to conclude a peace with the English as circumstances should require for the preservation of his kingdom. His death was concealed for some days, and it is remarkable that in such a numerous army, where many were disgusted, everything remained in the greatest tranquillity and good order imaginable, and Tippoo on his arrival, in less than a month after the death of his father, met with the greatest acclamations of joy. He shewed the liveliest acknowledgment to his subjects, received them with an affable and meek

temper, promised them liberty, and that he would pay them more regularly than they had been heretofore paid. The English soon after had the misfortune to lose their brave general Sir Eyre Coote, who had in a short time revived the hearts of the British troops from their late disaster and bid defiance to their enemies soon after his arrival, by the first victory he gained over such a formidable army. Tippoo finding he could make no progress and that he could gain no honour in giving battle to the English, but was forced to retreat whenever they attacked him (particularly in an engagement where the French camp had strongly entrenched themselves and were obliged to abandon their batteries), thought it most advantageous to follow his father's plan, when, to his great surprise, he received intelligence of Bednore being taken by General Mathews with several of his sea ports to the southward. This news put him into such a consternation (for his capital was in great danger) that he was obliged to resolve to fly to the relief of his dominions and exert his utmost to retake Bednore abandoning the coast of Coromandel; but he left a strong body of horse to observe the motions of the English, and act for the best with Monsieur Bussy. Tippoo finding that Monsieur Bussy had recalled the French troops from his army, seemed to be much incensed and thought he had a right to compel them to march with him in this important expedition, as he had them in his actual service, for which he paid 40,000 pagodas per month, and that as he had reaped no benefit from them hitherto, he was resolved they should assist him in retaking Bednore and therefore insisted on their following him, Monsieur Bussy representing the circumstances of that actual time, and the danger that might ensue by being soon overpowered by the English, Tippoo at last gave attention to his representation, on condition that a detachment of Europeans should remain with him until he had retaken the country he had lost. Accordingly Monsieur Bussy appointed Monsieur Cossigny with his regiment to remain with their ally. Monsieur Bussy coming upon such great projects to India expected that all the country powers would have been ready to accept of his propositions and remain under his protection. 'Tis true that this brave general acquired great fame when he was in this country the war before last (especially when he was in Salabut Jung's service by order of the French government and at the same time negotiating national affairs), but contrary to his expectation, he found everything turn out unfavourably, and that the letters he had written to the different princes mentioning with what power and forces he was coming to India, had not the effect he thought they would have. He expected also that Hyder, being his King's trusty ally, would have done something of consequence, but he was deceived here also, and found that no considerable possessions could be obtained and that all his dependence was on promises. Tippoo having left the coast of Coromandel, marched with all expedition toward Bednore. Arriving near Seringaputtam, he began to manifest his tyranny more severely than his father before him,

he made it his study to exercise cruelty on the unfortunate English prisoners by forcing the poor soldiers to work as mercenaries chained together, dispersing them in small detachments to his out garrisons, and keeping them continually employed in carrying heavy burthens for his fortifications. The French regiment, with the two other national parties in Tippoo's actual service, were eye witnesses of the tyrant's inhumanity forcing both officers and soldiers to be circumcised. Soon after Bednore fell into his hands with General Mathews and all his troops these last prisoners were treated with the same barbarity as the first, and General Mathews ended his days in prison, being poisoned by order of Tippoo. This loss of Bednore, with such a number of brave officers and soldiers, proved a fatal stroke to the English, much to be lamented, for, by the success they had in the easy conquest of that country they shook the very foundation of the tyrant's government, and of course must have been his ruin, or at least forced him to submit to make reparation for all the damage the English sustained by Hyder's sudden invasion, had the Government had time to send a reinforcement to maintain that rich country. The French still continue to assist their ally, and preserve him in their interest, that they may be revenged for the loss of their ancient possessions and weaken the arms of the British nation, under the pretence of friendship to the Indian princes to prevent their country being seized upon and falling under the oppression of the English.

**No. 66**—Cornwallis fixes the expenses of the Poona Residency at Rs. 5,000 per month plus Rs. 4,000 extras.

FROM—E. HAY, SECRETARY BENGAL, COUNCIL,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT POONA,

*Fort William, 6th June 1787.*

I have received your letters of the 20th January and 21st April and laid before the Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council who has directed me to acknowledge also the receipt of your letter to the Board of the 12th February on pecuniary subjects.

The Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council having taken into consideration the charges of your Residency which his Lordship has compared with those of Lt-Col. Upton's deputation and being desirous to fix them at a precise sum as far as the information at present before the Board and circumstances will admit, has been pleased to direct that your disbursements for intelligence, presents and allowance to Noor-al-Deen Hussein Cawn and for every other expense usually included in your account, do not exceed the sum of Rs. 5,000 per mensem from the end of the month in which you receive this order. The Resident at Benares has been directed to furnish you regularly in bills from that

place with this monthly sum and to remit his first bills for it so that they should become payable in the course of the month of August

This allowance you will observe is independent of your personal allowance and that of your assistant and independent also of the expense of your detachment and its officers and the surveyor and surgeon who attend you. It was directed on the 2nd October 1786 that this expense should be introduced into your accounts under the distinct head of Bombay Presidency, and that you should draw for the amount after submitting them monthly to the examination of the Bombay Board and obtaining the sanction of their approval of them.

It is the intention of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council in making this arrangement that in future the whole expense to the Company attending your deputation shall not exceed nine thousand Rupees per mensem or near that sum which is more than the average of the monthly expense of Colonel Upton's Embassy to the Poona Durbar, but as the Board are not officially informed of the monthly charge for your Guard and for the Surgeon and the Surveyor who attend you, you are desired to send me an estimate thereof when you receive this letter.

As to discharging the elephants and camels which are with you, it is left to your option to do so or not as the sum allowed for your disbursements may enable you or not to maintain them. However in fixing the sum of your monthly disbursements at 5,000 Rupees, the Governor General in Council apprized of the possible necessity in extraordinary cases of paying largely for secret intelligence and reposing full confidence in your integrity and prudence, does not mean to provide for such cases within this amount and allows you when they happen, to charge separately for those extraordinary expenses but you are required to state to him at large the reasons which compel you to incur them.

The allowance to your Assistant Mr. Unthoff is to be Rs. 512 per mensem and it is to be paid by the Buxey in Calcutta and to be drawn for from the 1st November 1786 when his predecessor Mr. Wilkinson ceased to draw his

**No. 67**—The Governor of Bombay mentions terms for restoring Salsette to the Marathas.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET.

*Bombay Castle, 26th June 1787.*

Sir,

We are to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st instant.

Concerning the anxiety expressed by the Ministry for the recovering of Salsette, it is a matter on which we are not empowered to treat until a reference shall have been made to the Court of Directors and the

Government-General. It will however be acceptable to us to be advised what the Mahrattas may deem a compensation to us for the sacrifice they are so eager to obtain. In our opinion the restitution of Broach with its Districts and collection of the Chout at Surat, both Peshwa and Gaicawar, are the only objects which merit the attention of this Government as an equivalent for the renunciation of Salsette.\*

We shall not fail to communicate to you such intelligence from the coast as may interest your attention

**No. 68**—Malet analyses the results of the war between the Marathas and Tipu, finds them more advantageous to the latter and forwards to the Governor General his inferences in regard to future British policy.

FROM—Mr. C. W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND COUNCIL.

*Poona, 27th June 1787.*

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My Lord and Gentlemen,

Under the 8th instant I dispatched via Hyderabad and Masulipatam, duplicate of my respects of the 3rd instant, which were forwarded to Captain Kirkpatrick.

On the 5th instant in the evening I paid a visit to Hurry Punt, and congratulated his return, having the same morning been visited by Mah Rao, a Mahratta Jaghiredar of consequence. On the 10th in the morning I paid the same compliment to Tookajee Holcar, which he returned the same evening, on which occasion the complimentary presents were exchanged that are usual on first meetings.

On the 11th instant I was honoured with your commands of the 25th April relative to the Guntoor Sircar which I shall carefully observe.

On the 15th instant I received a letter from the Government of Bombay, in reply to several of mine, on the subject of the Surat disputes. I have the honour to enclose copy of it and of my answer forwarded the 21st.

Holcar marched hence the 17th to his village of Baubgaum. I hear nothing of his proceeding to Malwa. During his stay here he was treated with every appearance of cordiality and attention by the Durbar.

On the 19th I received a letter from Governor Sir Archibald Campbell, in which he does me the honour to assure me of his entire approbation of my conduct towards Bujing Row (the late Vackeel of the Nabob Walau Jah) who, Sir Archibald adds, is perfectly sensible of his agent's improper behaviour.

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\* This shows how Nana Fadnis was trying to recover Salsette

In the same letter Sir Archibald has communicated to me an account of his having placed Omer Sing, the brother of the late Tuljajee Rajah, on the musnud of Tanjore, in preference to an adopted son, the particulars of which I have agreeable to Sir Archibald's desire communicated to this Government

Hurry Punt entered his house in the city the 18th instant. I am inclined to impute his residence so long without the town rather to a political than an astrological cause, and it was certainly wise to keep at a distance a rabble full of clamour and discontent on account of the great arrears due to it men are encouraged to perseverance in their demands when surrounded by the populace to hearken to and witness the justice of their complaints. In such a situation pressed by actual want and warmed by a recital of their wrongs, the consequences might have been dangerous to the opulent defenceless inhabitants.

Hurry Punt having had the address to get rid of great numbers of the Seranjamee or Jaghirdar troops on his march from the southward, who left only their Vackeels to support their claims in the ensuing settlement, found less difficulty in managing those who accompanied him hither, though I am informed a settlement was not at last made but by the practice of all those arts of humility, entreaty and solicitation, in which the Bramins are so perfectly versed ; nor were threats and compulsion omitted in some cases of obstinate rejection of the proffered terms which according to my information have been thus accommodated

That the arrears of the third called Nalbunde, which ought to have been advanced on the troops' taking the field, but which the straits of Government prevented, shall be relinquished in consideration of the present payment of forty per cent

That the arrears of the third called Rozemurrah or daily maintenance which used always to be paid regularly in the field but is now by the difficulties of Government four months in arrears, shall be relinquished in consideration of present payment of half the amount due.

That the remaining third stiled Hissaub or Burrat, which, agreeable to former usage, should be settled at the end of the campaign, shall not be agitated at present, but in consideration of the distress of Government, shall be deferred till a more favourable period, or till the Peshwa in person shall lead the army to conquests the fruits of which will enable the Durbar to cancel all demands

The troops accompanied their acquiescence in these very hard conditions with a request, couched in very decent terms, that when Government should again have occasion for their services it would consider well the means of rewarding them, and that they on their parts previous to complying with any future summons, should expect ample security on that head.



Every information I can collect relative to the late peace tends to persuade me that it has been highly advantageous to Tippoo. He has dissolved a formidable confederacy and dissipated an immense army, the members of which, imbittered against each other by mutual distrust, dispirited by ill success, and disgusted by disappointment in their just claims to the pay due to them, will scarce ever be again united and collected while he, at the head of a regular army obedient to his nod has secured leisure to form with deliberation such designs as policy or ambition may suggest, and which the promptitude of disposition will enable him instantly to execute, nor has he secured these advantages at an exorbitant price. 'Tis true he has stipulated to pay this Durbar for countries which have been lately conquered from it, the arrears of tribute for four years at twelve lacs per annum, which, with Durbar charges will, I suppose, nominally amount to near sixty lacs, of this sum I find that only twenty-two lacs have been actually paid and under pretence of negotiating payment of the remainder, a person has been sent here by Tippoo in the character of a Soucar, but who, I am informed, is in fact one of the principal managers of his docks, and is now accompanied by a great number of jasoodes, hircarrahs, etc. Added to this payment, Tippoo has surrendered to the Peshwa three places he had lately reduced, Buddami reckoned to produce a revenue of three lacs, Ketoor five lacs, Nilgoond two lacs, and to Nizam Ally Cawn Adoni, the restoration of which implies no positive losses to Tippoo, as he had never collected the revenues, consequently had on that account incurred no expence. In lieu of all which Tippoo has amply repaid himself by the reduction and possession of Shawnoor, estimated at eleven lacs per annum, Caunagheere\* at three lacs and Annagoande† at seven lacs, producing in the aggregate a balance in favor of Tippoo of eleven lacs per annum. The Nabob of the former place and the Hindoo Rajahs or Zemindars of the latter having been formerly accustomed to submit to the Maratta arms whenever their power was predominant, had, on the army's late approach, made the usual tenders of submission to preserve their districts from the ruin which would otherwise have been inevitable. Tippoo has thought proper to construe this conduct into a high crime against his sovereignty, and, on that pretence, to seize their districts and expel the possessors who are now wandering about amongst the southern Zemindars, the wretched instances of Tippoo's power and the Peshwa's impotence

I am further informed that Mr. Montigne has actually commenced his remonstrances to the Minister on the apparent predilection lately shown to the British interest, but that though Monsieur Montigne from situation and the late orders he has received, is necessitated to promote the completion of the union with Tippoo, and is firmly convinced in his own

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\* Kanakagiri

† Annagondi.

opinion that it will in the end prove successful, yet from partiality to a connexion with this Government, in the promotion of which his endeavours have not been successful, from resentment of indignities to which his countrymen have already been subjected by Tippoo and from a persuasion, that from his perfidy, treachery and total disregard of every moral and religious consideration, the ultimate advantage of any connexion with that Prince will be converted solely to his benefit, he is by no means a warm advocate for the measure, nor does he even scruple to insinuate, that Tippoo has commenced his present negotiations by purchasing the support of the French Government in India

Convinced, my Lord and Gentlemen, that Mr Montigne has held the language here attributed to him, I am at a loss for a reasonable method of accounting for it. If it originates with Mr Montigne, the natural inference is that it must be from a desire to support by a prospect of future exertion the present drooping interest of the French in India, but at the same time it should be recollected that in thus supporting without authority for so doing, a prospect of future importance, he subjected his nation to the present stigma of covering under the sacred name of treaties the most treacherous and perfidious designs



## SECTION 2

### *Cornwallis's policy towards the Maratha State : The Triple alliance*

**No. 69**—The Governor General and Council send instructions to Malet upon several topics connected with the Co's interests at Poona.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND COUNCIL.

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET.

*Fort William, 28th November 1787.*

Sir,

We transmit to you a triplicate of our letter dated the 3rd October. Since that time four letters have reached us from you.—

*31st August.*—Our instructions have been repeated to Meer Mahomed Hussein to transmit to you constant intelligence from Hydrabad but we do not imagine that you will find it of much use, for that which is sent to us is not so precise as it ought to be, nor so much in point to the political situation of that Court with respect to the other powers on the Continent. This induces us to wish that you would furnish us from time to time with any information you receive of occurrences at Hydrabad, in which the interests of the Company can be eventually concerned without depending on our obtaining an account of them through any other channel.

The reply transmitted by the President in Council at Bombay under date the 15th August to your reference concerning an extension of commerce with the Mahratta country, leaves the subject as it stood before and does not fully answer the object of our inquiry. We therefore desire

that you will furnish us from the best materials you can command with a state of the commercial intercourse between that country and the Company's territories, as well with respect to imports from Europe as with respect to articles of merchandise produced or manufactured in India, that we may be enabled to judge how far it may admit of an increase advantageous to both

*2nd and 6th September.*—We are sure that you would render a service as acceptable to the President in Council at Fort St. George as it would be to ourselves, if you could obtain information from time to time from any source not liable to suspicion of the views of Tippoo Sultan and although such an inquiry is not among the immediate objects of your deputation yet as the event may show that it is connected with them, we shall consider any reasonable charge for good intelligence of the transactions of that chief as disbursed for a profitable purpose and placing a just confidence in your integrity we authorize the expense.

As Major Palmer has received orders to communicate to you fully whatever passes regarding the Mahrattas in the quarter of his residence you will have the best information of it and will not be obliged to trust (as you have for some time past) to intelligence that cannot be deemed authentic. We enclose a copy of the Governor General's last letter from him and of our answer to it

During the contests in the Upper Provinces, we have been careful that every act should be avoided by the Company's Government and its allies which could tend to countenance and encourage those Chiefs and Powers who were engaged against Mahajee Scindia. While the Shahzadda was in the territories of the Company or those of the Nabob Vazier, we restrained him as far as we could from carrying on any correspondence with the people of Jynaghur and the other enemies of Scindia. The Cosseyn Chief Omrow Gheer who had taken refuge long before in the Vazier's country having shown hostile designs against the Mahratta Chief, the Nabob Vazier at the instance of the Governor General issued a proclamation that Omrow Gheer had forfeited his Excellency's protection and he instructed his officers to apprehend the person of that Cosseyn if he should be found in his Excellency's territories. Our correspondence with Scindia himself was not affected by his difficulties. It continued and yet exists upon the most friendly footing and we gave him such proofs of our friendship as were in our power and good faith required of us, but we never promised more.

*21st Sept. (2 Letters)*—We entirely approve the means you took in the dubious appearance of Tippoo's conduct with respect to the Company to waive direct answer to the Minister's request that we would assist Mahadjee Scindia with a body of the Company's forces.

*3rd Octr. (2 Letters)*—And we approve of the reply you sent to the second application of the Minister (in some degree a repetition of the

first) that you would furnish him with the means of forming a correct judgment how far he might rely on our aid in case of necessity

We recommend to you a continuance of the same apparent inattention which you have hitherto observed in the improper instances of watchfulness on the part of the Durbar of your actions and proceedings. They are certainly unpleasant from personal considerations and if you were acting with an European Government, they would be objects of complaint on public ground, but as the distrusts which give rise to them are natural to the people with whom you reside and our object is generally to conciliate and of course not to remonstrate the occasions that may be disregarded without the real imputation to our credit, you will see the use of yielding to the inconvenience that you suffer from them

We do not know that the Nabob Mazuffer Zung (of Murshidabad) has objected to the return of Zein-al-Aba-Deen Khan to Bengal and we are therefore concerned that the latter has received this notion. We informed you in our letter of the 30th October 1786 that there had been no prohibition against his coming back, and that he might have returned without our previous sanction, although we did not think it proper to give it in any express or formal manner

If, as you suppose possible, Zein-al-Aba-Deen Khan's asylum with Tipoo, your acquaintance with the former, and the confidence he ought to repose in you from your applications to us in his favour, may perhaps induce him to carry on a correspondence with you, that may not be without some benefit to the interests of the Company

The Governor General proposes to write to Sir Archibald Campbell concerning your plan for establishing a Dawk between Poona and Masulipatam and to leave it to Sir Archibald to communicate to you his wishes which you will consider as our own on this subject

**No. 70**—Malet went to Bombay to say good-bye to the retiring governor Boddam and his Asst. Uthoff addressed this letter to him mentioning several matters as desired by Nana Fadnis

FROM—UHTHOFF, ASSISTANT RESIDENT,  
TO—MALET AT BOMBAY.

*Poona, 30th December 1787.*

My dear Sir,

My letter of yesterday will have given you reason to expect by this time the answers from this Durbar to Governor Boddam's letters. I now send you a letter from the Peshwa, another from Nanna, and a third from Behroo Punt to Governor Boddam, with a letter from Behroo Punt to you and one for the Peshwa's Vackeel at Bombay. They have just been

delivered to me by Noor-al-Deen. I have desired to have copies of the three first. The contents of them I am informed are as follows.—

From the Peshwa to Governor Boddam—

Expression of the sense he entertains of the good faith and friendship shown on all occasions by Mr B to the Mahratta State, and referring to Nanna for further particulars.

From Nanna to Governor Boddam—

Acknowledging the propriety of Governor B.'s general conduct towards the Mahrattas, and intimating that being himself now at a distance from Poona and Mr B's departure for England so shortly expected, he has directed Behroo Punt the person through whom the English business is transacted to make him acquainted with the wishes of the Durbar on certain points

From Behroo Punt to Governor Boddam—

Recalling to his attention the application made some time since by Runchoor Senoe the Peshwa's former Vackeel for the restoration of Salsette to the Peshwa which had been since repeated through Mr. M. and begging that Governor B. would use his endeavours at home to get this point settled, desiring on the score of the friendship subsisting between the Peshwa and the English, that Governor B. will admit of a Vackeel from this Durbar accompanying him to England and requesting that Governor B. will signify to the Government at Home the Peshwa's wish that orders should be issued to the British administration in this country to assist the Peshwa with Troops on his asking for them.

From Behroo Punt to Mr Malet—

Acquainting him of his having fully explained to Noor-al-Deen the contents of the present letters to Bombay.

I have mentioned to the Khan that there seems some impropriety in applications of such a kind to Governor Boddam coming through Behroo Punt he says it is of no consequence. Notwithstanding my enquiries, I can collect nothing further of the probable views of this Government in sending a Vackeel to England. Hurry Punt and Behroo Punt declare that it is merely to express the friendly sentiments of this Durbar toward the English. I intimated yesterday to Noor-al-Deen that I should wish to know the motives of this deputation, that if there were any solid reasons in sending a Vackeel, it would be proper that I should be made acquainted with them officially and that I conceived there could be no objection on the part of the British administration in India to a Vackeel proceeding; that the measure being unprecedented, I could not see any necessity for the deputation merely to make friendly professions, since that could be done through the Government of Bengal or Bombay, and a Vackeel from this Government appearing in England would give room for conjecture derogatory to the dignity of the British Government in India. The

proposals from the Durbar are conceived in very general terms no equivalent for Salsette is mentioned. Behroo Punt says, that may be settled hereafter. The predicaments in which the English assistance is required by the Peshwa are not stated. Behroo Punt says generally that our own interest will urge to us what recompense we may desire for a compliance on our part with the Peshwa's wishes. I desired yesterday that it might be particularly signified to Behroo Punt, that time would not permit of answers being received to the letters he wished to write to Bombay and a Vackeel sent from hence to accompany Governor Boddam. Hurry Punt and Behroo Punt declared this day to the Khan that no particular person was yet fixed or even thought of for the employment.

When Nanna will return is not yet known if he does not come to-morrow, it is expected he will stay for a day longer. The report mentioned to you in a former letter about his marriage is I believe without foundation. I enclose you a letter received this morning from Mr Yvon.

I have thought it quite unnecessary to write officially to Governor Boddam since some delay would thereby occur in this reaching you, and as you are so perfectly competent to explain the whole affair to him you will receive herewith two letters from the Khan. I enquired of Noor-Al-Deen whether the Vackeel was intended to be sent to the King or to the Company. He says that Behroo Punt did not mention to whom, but that the name of the King of England is inserted two or three times in the letter from Behroo Punt to Governor Boddam. The Khan has no news relative to the Collahpore Rajah. You may suppose that I am very anxious for your return.

**No. 71**—In reply to G. G.'s requisition Malet forwards to him such information on the conduct of Tipu as would be useful to him in deciding whether to wage war with Tipu or not.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K.G., GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

*Poona, 19th March 1788*

I had last the honour to address your Lordship the 29th ultimo, since which I have had the pleasure to learn from Mr. Ramsay, that the Chichester, the ship seized by Angria, has been restored.

Not having been so successful as I expected in prevailing on the person appointed to proceed to Tippoo's Court on the part of Holcar to correspond with me, I have endeavoured to supply Sir Archibald Campbell with



intelligence of that quarter thro' another channel, and shall be happy if thro' it I can succeed in accomplishing your wishes relative to information of the state of affairs in that Prince's country, as expressed in your commands of the 28th of November. I have the honour to enclose extract of a letter of this date to Sir Archibald Campbell on the subject, and to refer you thereto for explanation of the mode I have adopted; your Lordship will also observe that it contains a proposal for facilitating the supply of horses for the Madras cavalry

My endeavours to supply the Bombay Presidency with cash by bills on Calcutta for the relief of its urgent necessities, have been fruitless, the moneyed men observing they have no correspondence with Calcutta. Ignorant of the state of your funds at Benares, I have, on mature consideration, thought proper not to make any offers of bills on that place to the amount Mr. Ramsay wants, five lacks of Rupees, as such a sum, or even a much smaller one, in addition to my monthly drafts, might prove a very inconvenient encroachment on the appropriation of the funds of that settlement. but I think it probable that should that channel of remittance be by you pronounced admissible, for the supply of any immediate emergency of the Bombay affairs, I might be able to procure money for my bills on the Resident at the rate I have been used to draw, and if what I am told is true, of the inferior value of the Benares Rupee to that of Calcutta, I conceive 93 here for 100 there must be a more advantageous exchange than 94 at Bombay for 100 at Calcutta. I should be glad to receive your commands on the point, observing, for your further information, that there will probably be an additional exchange of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 per cent on the remittance of money by bill from hence to Bombay.

By late letters from Governor Ramsay, I learn that his distress for money continues and is likely to increase, as the 71st Regiment is daily expected from Madras, and the shroffs both at Bombay and Surat decline negotiating his bills on your Government.

I have not yet received any intelligence relative to Tippoo from my Agent at Colapore, but he writes me, that the Raja has made a great impression on the territories of the Dessoj of Sauvent, though assisted by the Portuguese. I am informed that this Government has dispatched letters to the several parties concerned, enjoining them to send their respective agents here to accommodate the points in dispute, in consequence of which a settlement is expected, but I cannot pretend to say with what foundation, as from the inefficacy of the interposition of this Court in the commencement of the dispute, there is little reason to expect it should be received with more deference by the Rajah after his late successes.

Notwithstanding the apparent indifference of this Government to the disgrace it has suffered to the northward and to the southward, its weakness is evidently betrayed in that want of resentment of them to which it must be so strongly urged by every motive that can influence a state like this, the genesis of which is conquest and depredation, checked in the exercise of this spirit on foreign nations and consequently straitened by a failure of those sources whence the expenses of the state used to be plentifully supplied, the Minister has ventured to expose himself to the odium of substituting (subjecting?) the property of the subject to the spoil of the enemy, and has lately given great and universal discontent to the inhabitants of this city by the most arbitrary exactions levied with the greatest rigor and severity, from which even the Bramins have not been exempted. The absence of the Peshwa has been thought the most proper season for making these extraordinary collections to relieve him I suppose from the disagreeable imputation of personal assent.

On the 12th instant the first division of the 71st Regiment arrived at Bombay under Colonel Elphinston.

On the 17th Instant I received from Mr Forster Moodajee Boosla's pass for Capt. Reynold's journey to Nagpore, and if, notwithstanding all the jealousy of this Government, I can procure the same permission from it, I hope he will be able to proceed by the beginning of April.

Having written thus far, I was on the 17th instant honoured with your commands of the 13th February, pursuant to which I shall demand an audience of the Minister as soon as the bustle of the Peshwa's return from Nassuck is over. He arrived in town the 17th instant. After my audience, I shall do myself the honour to reply particularly to your Lordship's letter.

On the 16th instant the commands of your Right Hon'ble Board reached me, enclosing a new cypher, which I shall in future make use of.

Having just received a message from the Minister desiring to see me tomorrow on the subject of Behro Punt's conversations of the 15th instant, I shall embrace that opportunity of making known to him your sentiments relative to the dispatch of an agent from this Government to England, and also make a proper use of the information contained in your Lordship's letter of the 13th February relative to your instructions to Major Palmer in reply to Sindia's offer of contributing to form a closer connexion between the Company and the Peshwa, which must at once convince the Minister of the futility of his misrepresentation and the consistency of your Lordship's measures.

Not having heard from Major Palmer since the 26th of December, I conclude that some of his affairs must have miscarried, as I learn that the malcontent Rajpoot Zemindars have thrown the whole country between the Chumbul and the Nerbudda into confusion.

**No. 72**—Malet analyses the causes of Brahman supremacy at Poona and reports his inferences to the G. G. with a view to taking measures for preventing the increase of Maratha power by taking advantage of their internal dissensions.

FROM—Mr. C. W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K G., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona the 29th March 1788.*

The feudal nature of the tenures of the great Mahratta or military chieftains invariably leads them to a desire for an affection of independence of the Bramin or civil power; while on the other hand it is the constant and most important object of the Bramin branch, notwithstanding temporary and personal obligations, to check, control and use to its own aggrandizement the power of the Mahratta chieftains. These, my Lord, may be, I think, safely admitted as the grand objects of these two great branches of this empire, and to the following causes do I conceive, that the Bramins are indebted for the maintenance of their ground in the contest—1st Their unrivalled possession of the pen—2nd Their unwearied industry—3rd Their method and assiduity in business—4th. Their possession of all the emolumentary posts and power of the empire. 5th. Their absolute authority over the smaller Mahratta chiefs—6th Their entire possession of the domestic management of the affairs of all those chiefs.—7th. Their assumption (?) even of a military character on the ruin of many of those families—8th. The particular respect, though it will operate but for a season, due from the new families of Tuckojee Holcar and Mahajee Sindia to the Peshwas raised to eminence by the Bramins, and probably in opposition to the ancient great Mahratta families.—9th. The sanctity of the Bramin character, which though greatly worn off by their present invidious authoritative one, so repugnant to their original one, still influences the minds of ignorant and superstitious men in spite of personal antipathy.

From this sketch, my Lord, I mean to infer, that the interposition of the great military chiefs in any points of negotiation cannot be agreeable to the political or civil branch of this empire, as it tends pointedly to the introduction of an ascendancy extremely hurtful to its authority, but from a parity of reasoning it will strike Your Lordship, that in cases where it becomes an object of check, controul or forcibly influences the conduct of this Court, no channel could be employed with so sure a prospect of success, particularly in its present state, as that of Mahajee Sindia, Moodajee Boosla or Tuckojee Holcar, care being taken to avoid alarming their jealousy and rivalry of each other, but of all the rivals of the Bramin Government—I do imagine that the Rajah of Panala or Collapore might on the strength of his claim to the Rajahship of the Mahrattas be rendered the most formidable. From this state of the question it certainly appears to be good policy to cultivate on all occasions a good understanding

with those chieftains, as in many cases a reciprocity of interests in curbing any dangerous exertion or designation (designs<sup>d</sup>) of the Peshwa's power, might be productive of mutual benefit.

Exclusive, however, of the dissatisfaction, which would certainly arise to this Government from the interposition of any of the Chiefs above described to the accomplishment of an object repugnant to its inclinations, and none, I presume, would be otherwise requisite, it will at all times be attended with the inconvenience of the mediator's endeavouring to convert the wishes or necessities of the contending parties by an artful management to the promotion of his own interest, if possible, at the expense of both

I beg leave to point out to Your Lordship's particular notice, that all the Minister's communications to me of his dislike of Mahajee Sindia's interposition, have been accompanied with a desire, that they might not be made known to Mahajee Sindia.

On the 20th instant I visited the Minister by appointment, as advised in my address of the 19th instant, and found him accompanied by Hurry Punt and Behroo Punt. The Minister opened the business of this conference by observing to me, that he had through Behroo Punt communicated the receipt of repeated letters from Mahajee Sindia, advising advances from Major Palmer to a general alliance between this State, and the Company against Tippoo Saib, that in addition to those communications, he had now to acquaint me, that a person of character named Junardhuu Wyde, belonging to the Furnavese Department, had arrived here with letters of credence from Mahajee Sindia, who had, on the part of that chief, confirmed the substance of the letters, as it had been communicated to me on the subject of the said alliance, and further added, that Major Palmer had proposed to Mahajee Sindia, that, if this Government would engage in it, the British Government would commence hostilities against Tippoo as a faithless disturber of the general tranquillity

I observed to Nanna that there appeared a contradiction between the verbal communication I had received from Behroo Punt on this subject and the written memorandum he had produced to authenticate its containing the substance of Mahajee Sindia's letters, the latter only amounting to an application on the part of Major Palmer for assistance, in case of our being attacked by Tippoo, whereas all the verbal communications that I received from the Durbar insisted on general and unreserved advances having been made by Major Palmer. I enquired very particularly as to the credibility of the envoy lately arrived from Mahajee Sindia, and whether his character and vouchers entitled his communications to be received as good and authentic.

The Minister replied, that whatever construction I might put on the memorandum produced to me by Behroo Punt, the sense of the letters from Mahajee Sindia amounted to what he had communicated, the whole of which was not only confirmed, but extended by the verbal communications of Junardhun Wyde, a person whose character and credentials entitled him to entire attention and belief.

Conceiving that I could not more effectually controvert the stress which the minister laid on his communications from Mahajee Sindia and dissipate those impressions so prejudicial to our fairness and sincerity necessarily arising therefrom, I produced your Lordship's letter of the 13th ulto and explained to him that part of it, in which Your Lordship's instructions to Major Palmer in reply to Mahajee Sindia's desire of forming a closer connexion with your Government are so minutely correspondent with my powers, and the offers made by me in consequence to this Court viz, that no closer connexion is at present admissible than to conclude in the form of a treaty an engagement to give mutual assistance to each other, in case of an interference against either party of any European power whatever

The Minister and Hurry Punt had a great deal of separate conversation in consequence of this communication, the subject of which seemed to be an enquiry into the cause of so material a difference in Mahajee Sindia's communications, and my authentic advices, the substance of which was minuted by Behroo Punt, by desire of the Minister, who acquainted me, that other points of negotiation had been agitated with the above between Major Palmer and Mahajee Sindia, relative to your Lordship's assisting to reestablish the affairs of that chieftain in Hindostan, and that they had engaged to each other to procure speedy determinations from hence and from Calcutta.

The whole of the Minister's conversation on the above subject seemed so open and candid, that I am now firmly of opinion, that he has received from Mahajee Sindia the intimations he had communicated to me, so that, though I confess myself greatly at a loss to account for the source, whence such extraordinary matter has issued, I am inclined entirely to acquit him of their originating with this Government on the principles assigned in my last letter of the 19th instant.

I reminded the Minister of his former references to Nizam Ally on the subject of the exclusive agreement against a combination of any European power with Tippoo, and received for answer, that by letters from Hyderabad, he was informed, that a person would be dispatched hither with powers and instructions to treat on it. This intelligence, if I may judge from what has passed, certainly merits no credit.

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No. 73—Malet reports to the G. G. his conversations with the Poona Court about an alliance with the British against the French and solicits instructions on the attitude he was to observe towards Raghujī Bhosle who was to visit Poona. He also comments on the rumoured visit of Mahadji Sindia to the south.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

*Poona, 21st January 1789.*

My Lord,

In the event of material occurrence since my last address of the 7th ulto., I have communicated to Mr Secretary Hay such circumstances as appeared at all worthy of notices, particularly the arrival of three French Frigates at Mahe, on which Behroo Punt, at a visit that he paid me the 15th instant, acquainted me, from the Minister, that a letter had been received from the commander of them demanding indemnification for the loss sustained by the owners of the French ship captured by the Maratta cruisers. From the tenour of Behroo Punt's discourse it appeared to me that this demand was backed with some threats of retaliation, if not complied with, though not acknowledged by Behroo Punt, whose sole object seemed to gain a knowledge whether any aid might be expected from us in case of the affair ending in a rupture and my conversation, on the other hand, giving no ground for hope, he observed, that should naval hostilities ensue in which the French force should prove superior, the affair might end in an agreement prejudicial to our interests. I replied, that the only agreement that could take place would be an engagement on the part of this Court to desist from its piratical attacks on French Vessels and payment of the sum in demand. But, added Behroo Punt, should it be carried a step further, and a settlement be granted them for the prosecution of their commerce in the Maratta Dominions, would that not be hostile to our interests. Perceiving that this was a mere attempt to stimulate us by a consequence to which I cannot conceive that this Court will ever submit, I replied, that this Government had on all former occasions, even in its distress, shewn itself too wise, and too well acquainted with the spirit of the French nation, to admit it to a settlement on the most flattering promises of assistance, that added to the dishonour of being forced to a concession so incompatible with the power and dignity of this State and which the insignificance of the French power in India made it ridiculous to mention, the stipulation of subsisting treaties with the Company, in bar of such a measure would brand it with infidelity, publish to the world the imbecility of their Government and teach all foreign nations how to force it to keep or break its engagements. Behroo Punt acknowledged the force of this language, and said, what he had mentioned was mere matter of conversation, and worthy of no further notice, but requested me to give him my sentiments on the point of aid from the Company. I replied, that your Lordship generously stood engaged in

the only predicament of real danger to this state, but that it could not be expected that we should expose ourselves to broil with the European powers, with whom we are connected by treaties of amity, whose vessels visit the coasts of Hindostan, in support of their piratical depredations founded on no principles of policy or public advantage, and conducing to no other end than the precarious gratification of individual and unjustifiable avarice, frequently at the expense of the honor and interests of the State.

I have been lately favoured with a letter from Mr. Forster, giving me an account of the state of the cession of Gurra Mundela by this Government to that of Nagpore, by which I find its revenue does not exceed six lacks per annum, a material difference from the account given me by Behroo Punt, as stated in my address of the 7th ulto. The Cuttack revenues he states at about eighteen lacks but very improvable. Mr. Forster seems to think that the Bhosla will scarcely be prevailed on by any inducement to cede that province which corresponds with the communication made to me on the same point by Behroo Punt who adduced nearly the same causes for the repugnance, particularly the convenience of its situation for renewing at a proper opportunity the antiquated claim of Chout, which though almost obsolete merits notice as a characteristic trait. As however I learn from Mr. Forster that Ragoojee has announced his intention of visiting this capital, to pay his respects to the Peshwah on succeeding to the executive chiefship of his family, the opportunity may prove favourable for ascertaining the extent of our expectations on this important point, which I should be extremely happy to be the instrument of accomplishing under your Lordship's instructions. And as in the prosecution of this point, the smallest circumstance conducive to it attracts my notice, I take this timely opportunity of requesting your Lordship's sentiments, relative to my paying those attentions to Ragoojee that I did to his father Moodajee on his arrival here; whether I may take any steps in promotion of your Lordship's object with him, jointly with or separately from, this Court. whether, as the popular superstition of the people may be supposed a sensible chord, I may as an expedient, touch on the grant of any religious privileges or immunities to this State or the Bhosla, separately or jointly, at Ghyah and Benares with the reservation to the latter, in the event of the exchange of Cuttack of the exclusive right in all religious points, to the temple of Jagernaut and its endowments. In considering which, permit me to submit to your Lordship that, though probably some deficiency of immediate revenue may ensue, the grand point of the influx of specie, by the indulgence and promotion of the spirit of pilgrimage may be increased. I have also to request your Lordship's sentiments on the admissibility of the distribution of personal gratuities and to what amount, and whether, should any difficulty present itself or any doubts of the surrender of Gurra Mundela by the present possessor, any decided steps may be expected from your Lordship to remove it.

I have the pleasure to acquaint your Lordship that on the late flight of two persons, who had been guilty of murder at Surat, to Nassuck, this Government has granted orders for their surrender, in consequence of an application from the Nabob of that place by letter through me.

I have just learnt by private letters from Bombay that the Prince William Henry sailed thence for England on the 13th instant; and that on the 16th two forty-gun French frigates anchored off the harbour of Bombay and proceeded the next day toward Surat, their destination or intention unknown.

There is a rumour at this place of Sindia's coming here, but in my opinion not entirely worthy of credit, for though many reasons offer that may induce this Court to behold too great an extension and too firm an establishment of his personal favour in the north, yet so effectual a preventative step has been taken by the introduction of Ally Bahadur into the affairs of those parts, so necessary do I conceive the presence of Sindia to manage the Maratta interests in that tumultuous scene; and so embarrassing do I conceive his presence at Poona would be to the administration, that I am at a loss to reconcile his coming here to any prudent desire of it on the part of the ministry.

An agent from Tippoo was lately dispatched with the usual marks of attention by this Court. On asking Behroo Punt the occasion, he told me that it was the person interested with the discharge of the sums stipulated by the late treaty, which he had executed and was dispatched of course.

No alteration has taken place in the state of the Gingera negotiation since my last address, but Behroo Punt has assured me that Ballo Meah has been paid 7,000 rupees for his current expenses.

**No. 74**—Lord Cornwallis sends instructions to Malet about the exchange of complimentary presents between the Court of Poona and the British officials and about promoting the pilgrimage to Benares and Gya.

FROM—EARL CORNWALLIS,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 16th March 1789.*

I have seen your letters to Mr Hay dated the 13th and 14th ultimo, and perceiving from them as well as from your representations in a former letter to him, that you experience much inconvenience and embarrassment in your intercourse on public business with the Peshwa and his Ministers by the prohibition under which you have been laid against accepting complimentary presents, I have, after very mature deliberation, thought it incumbent upon me though not without some degree of reluctance to relax on that head of your instructions.



I had long entertained hopes that the Marattah ministers would after your explanations have clearly seen that no just cause was given to them for offence, by our adopting a line of conduct which we declared to be conformable to instructions from home, as well as to our own national customs. But however unseasonable it may be in them to persevere in expecting the continuance of an acquiescence on our part with the customs of India, I think it now prudent to desist from a punctilious observance of the rule which I had wished to establish, rather than run the risk of embarrassing and impeding essential points of public business by the irritation and disgust which constant refusal to comply with that part of their manners and customs in ceremonial intercourse would in your opinion probably occasion.

You may therefore take the means that you may think most convenient to communicate the substance of my sentiments on this subject to Nanna either by a personal conference or by a message to him through Behroo Pant, and I have no doubt of your being able to place this act of complaisance in a very advantageous point of view as being a sacrifice of my own familiar and private feelings to an earnest and sincere desire to cultivate the most friendly and cordial good understanding between the two Governments.

At the time of this communication there will be a propriety in recommencing on your part the custom which had been suspended of offering presents, and no better opportunity could be found for presenting as much of the bales of Bengal manufactures as you may think proper, to the Peshwa and his ministers.

You will in your communication on this subject with Nanna and Behroo Pant give them to understand that it will be most agreeable to me that there should be no unnecessary profusion in the value of the presents that may occasionally be made to you and you will dispose of these presents to the best advantage that you can, and place the prices that you may receive for them to the credit of the Company; whilst on the other hand, you will as formerly charge the Public Account with the value of the presents which it may be requisite for you to offer from time to time to the different members of the Poona Government.

I have been exceedingly pleased with the zeal which you have shown for the public interest, by your own endeavours and by the propositions that you have made to the Bombay Government for effecting a reduction in the various rates of exchange to which we have long been obliged to submit in making our large remittances from hence to Bombay.

No time was lost in sending orders to the Resident at Benares to honour the bill which you have already drawn upon him for Rs. 30,000 in the most punctual manner.

An offer from a Shroff has been transmittted to me by the Bombay Government, for supplying them regularly with sums nearly to the extent

of the whole surplus revenues of Benares and Bahar, for bills on the Resident at Benares and upon terms though not so advantageous as those which you have obtained, yet more favourable than those on which we have made our remittances since my arrival in the country.

This proposition will be examined immediately and I think it more than probable that it will be accepted, on account of the very great convenience which will result to the Government of Bombay from obtaining supplies to an amount almost equal to their wants with regularity and certainty

You shall have early information of our decision upon this point and as I entertain a very high sense of your good intentions to promote public ceremony, I shall make it a point to give the strictest injunctions that the most punctilious attention shall be paid to any bills that you may have it in your power to draw in the meantime upon the terms that you are able to obtain

Should it appear that Behroo Punt could give you any material assistance in bringing the pilgrims to apply to you for bills on reasonable terms upon Benares or should you be of opinion that any other important object could be promoted by his desiring a pecuniary qualification, I should have no objection as I have conveyed to you in my last letter to your taking this occasion to allow him to profit from his services.

You will know from my last letter that I should make no kind of difficulty in granting indulgencies or even exemption of duties at Benares and Ghyah to Hindoos in general or to Marrattas in particular, if these concessions could tend to facilitate and forward our acquisition of the province of Cuttack which would be of so much value to the interests of the Company. I can conceive that we should lose the principal part of our merit with the Marrattas making such concessions if they should discover that they were not highly rated by us and that they could be easily obtained. But if in the course of your discussions they should be admitted to be desirable objects of attainment for the Marrattas, I wish you to encourage them in hopes of success for adequate considerations, whilst I shall depend upon your prudence and address to hold them up to their view in their highest point of value

It is however proper as some guidance for your conduct that you should be acquainted with the real value of those duties to the Company.

The amount of those at Benares is but trifling and I do not estimate the annual average from Ghyah at more than one lac and ten thousand rupees.

If there should appear to be no opening for making a valuable use of those concessions in negotiating for the exchange of Kuttack, other objects of compensation such as the probability of their tending to encourage the increase of pilgrimages to this country might present themselves

to induce us to relinquish them and any ideas or propositions of yours upon that head will always meet with my attentive consideration

Meer Abul Kassim the Nizam's Vakeel, arrived here a few days ago, but no point of business has as yet been discussed between us.

**No. 75**—The arrival there of the second son of the Mughal Shah Zada is communicated to Malet by Kennaway from Hyderabad.

FROM—JOHN KENNAWAY,

TO—CHARLES MALET,

*Hyderabad, 28th March 1789.*

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your favours of the 7, 16 and 18 instant.

Later accounts from the southward than those I formerly received, mention that a party of Tippto's forces under the command of Lally had been repulsed by the Koorges in which Lally is said to have been wounded

The second son of the late Shah Zadda who fled with his great uncle Akbar Ally Khan from Benares for the Deccan, arrived some little time since, in his Highness the Nizam's dominions. This circumstance is by no means pleasing to His Highness. He has declined agreeing to their coming on to Hyderabad and fixed upon cohere (?) for their residence till he can receive his Majesty's commands on the occasion. In the meantime he has written to Sindia and will I imagine regulate his future conduct towards them by the answers he may receive.

P.S.—As the cossids which are dispatched are paid by me for the time they are absent not by the trip, unless you have any particular letters that may require dispatch, I submit to you the inexpediency of their constantly receiving inams, for bringing the letters in eight days which they ought to do without this spur. Indeed I think the expense of inams but on particular occasions might be spared.

**No. 76**—Cornwallis declines to sanction Malet's proposal re : Janjira, and informs him of the transfer of Guntur Sarkar to the British through negotiations with Miya Abdul Kasim, the Nizam's agent at Calcutta.

FROM—EARL CORNWALLIS,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA

*Fort William, 5th May 1789*

Since my letter to you dated February 23rd I have received your letters dated February 28th, March 7th, 21st and 28th. I have already replied to your letter respecting the exactions from the pilgrim at Iliabad, and there are no material points to which the answers have not been anticipated

in your letters dated February 28th, and March 7th except the idea that has occurred to you of accepting a conveyance from Balloo Meah of his rights in Ginjera in order to facilitate and forward the negotiation for obtaining possession of Cuttack by a transfer of those rights, and even of assistance to Ginjera, into the hands of the Marattas

The acquisition of Cuttack would be of so much solid value to the Company that I need hardly repeat that I should not scruple to grant any reasonable conditions, or to take any justifiable public measures for the accomplishing of it.

You are well acquainted with the nature of the restrictions which have been laid by the Act of Parliament upon our engaging in any new negotiations which may tend to military operations, and though our employing a force to expel the usurper from Ginjera in support of rights that may be conveyed to us by the lawful owner, might not in strictness amount to a deviation from the injunctions of the Act, yet as hostilities in any form or upon any pretence might occasion some alarm at home, I confess that I should not be inclined to deliberate on that expedient, unless it should appear to become indispensable for succeeding in our present object

I have already expressed my wishes that you should at every conference on the subject appear only to be in an accommodating or rather in a passive disposition and take advantage of the impatience and anxiety of the Peshwa's ministers to recover possession of Salsette by leaving upon them the burthen of making propositions, and in the discussion of those propositions, you will be guided by what I have said on the subject of Ginjera and discountenance as long as you can without breaking off the negotiation, the transmission of any proposal to me, which includes the necessity of executing our part of the agreement by force of arms

The accounts contained in your last letter of the present condition of Surat and Fort Victoria and of the nature of the grounds on which they can be considered as valuable possessions to the Company, were more full and distinct than any that I had hitherto received, and they have given me very particular satisfaction.

I was likewise much pleased with the judicious manner in which you examined and discussed the applications of the Marattas for exemptions of duties on gram in the harbour of Bombay, and indeed I am persuaded that from the whole of the materials with which you have furnished me, my judgment cannot fail of deriving the most essential assistance in deciding upon any propositions that may be brought forward in the course of this negotiation.

You will no doubt have given Nanna sufficient assurances that no engagements would be contracted with the Nizam which could in any respect prove injurious to the interests of the Marhattas, and you may now take the earliest opportunity to inform him officially that all the conferences and discussions which I have had with Meer Abdul Cossim\* have been confined to an arrangement of the most satisfactory mode of bringing the public account between the two Governments to a final adjustment, and to a clear explanation of the true meaning of such articles as appeared to be ambiguously expressed in the treaty of 1768

As it will be necessary that several servants belonging to Seyf Jung the Gumastahs of some of the Zamindars, and the public officers of the Guntoor Sirkar, should be minutely examined respecting the real receipts and disbursements of the Sirkar for several years past, the settlement of the account must unavoidably be referred back to Hyderabad, where I trust it will be terminated to the Nizam's satisfaction and as the treaty has now been fully performed on his part by the surrender of the Sirkar I have thought it incumbent upon us to explain the eleventh article, of the treaty, which is the only article that contains any valuable stipulation in his favour in so open a manner as to leave his Highness no ground to complain of our want of sincerity and good faith.

Instead of clogging our engagement of assisting him with two Battalions of Native Troops and six field pieces manned with Europeans with the undefined condition of our finding it convenient at the time that they may be demanded to march troops into the Deccan, I have agreed that two Battalions consisting of not less than eight hundred men each with six field pieces manned with the number of Europeans which it is usual for us to attach to them in time of war, shall march to his assistance within two months or sooner, if possible, after they are demanded, without annexing any other conditions than that the actual expense of those troops shall be defrayed by the Nizam and that they can never be employed to act against our friends and allies ; and upon being desired by Meer Abul Cossim to describe those powers who came under that denomination, I did not hesitate to include the Marhattas.

I shall transmit to you a copy of the explanations of the treaty when they are reduced to writing in a regular form, and in the meantime I have no doubt of your being able to show the Poona ministers the communication of the substance of them, that we have a pleasure in cultivating and cementing the cordiality and friendship, which so happily subsists and which must be productive of so many advantages to both nations.

\* Nizam's Agent at Calcutta

[No. 77—Malet in this long letter discusses many important topics of political and administrative interest. He ingeniously explains away the designs of the Peshwa's Court to send an independent embassy to England for securing certain objects which could not be attained in India. The results of Raghuji Bhosala's visit to Poona are reported.]

FROM—Mr. C. W. MALET ;

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, the 31d June 1789*

In my last address of the 20th ultimo I gave your Lordship the substance of a conversation with Behroo Punt on the subject of the reclaimableness of persons who, with permission of their respective Governments or of their own free will without implying the imputation of flight, might change their habitation from the territories of this State to the Company's and *vice versa*, but more especially of such persons who might take up their residence at Benares.

At the same meeting Behroo Punt started the old topic of this Courts' sending a minister to England on which a great deal of conversation passed, but as a recital of the whole would be troublesome, I think it sufficient to acquaint your Lordship that the design seems founded on an idea that has been conveyed to this Court from some quarter or other, of the distinction between the King and the Company and of an opening thereby presenting of advantageously pursuing its interests by a skilful conduct of its negotiations with the Company or His Majesty's ministry as circumstances might dictate, or at all events of holding out the intention whether serious or not, as a means of ensuring additional complaisance from the English Government in India, in a persuasion that by the apprehension of such an appeal from its authority the conciliation of this Court to a reliance on it solely will be more solicitously sought after than might otherwise be expected for, though it might naturally have been concluded that the liberality of your Lordship's administration with respect to this Court should have thought the inutility of such schemes, yet intimate acquaintance gives me room to think that indulgence will ever rather be perverted into ground of encroachment than received with a sense of obligation ; though in answer to Behroo Punt's general questions as to the admissibility and feasibility of the embassy I assured him, agreeable to your Lordship's former instructions, that you had not the smallest objection to the measure, yet I thought it necessary to controvert as erroneous some points which he mentioned as objects of it, amongst others, that of procuring His Majesty's ratification and signature of the late treaty, when I begged to know what alteration would be made on the part of the Peshwa to render it necessary ; observing, that the treaty at present rested between two secondary powers the company on the part of the King of Great Britain and the Peshwa, minister of the Rajah and state of the Mahrattas, and that the King of Great Britain would certainly

have serious ground of objection to signing as an equal with a secondary power that presumed to slight his delegated authority. To the other great objects of this Court cooperation against Tippoo, restitution of Salsette, and even the Chout of the Carnatic which dropped from Behroo Punt in this conversation, I observed generally that this Court should not form its opinion of the Councils of the English nation by Indian politics, that they were founded on fixed principles of wisdom and justice ; and that he might rest assured that any application to Government at home relative to the affairs of India would be referred to the decision of your Lordship, with whose power this Court is well acquainted, and with whose friendship it ought to be so well satisfied

I am informed from a quarter of some credibility, but for the truth of which I cannot vouch, that Raggojee Bhonslah's visit has been productive of his engaging on various accounts to pay thirty-five lacks of Rupees to this Court exclusive of the expensive presents made to the Peshwah and his Ministers during his residence here. Ten of the thirty-five lacks, as I understand, are conditional on his being put in possession of Gurra Mundla, of which the promises given to his father have been repeated, seven lacks outstanding on account of a transfer of an arrear of fourteen lacks of Chout due from the Suba of Ellichpoor, for which the late Mudajee, on the part of the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan, became responsible to this Government, on condition of the Nabob's appointing Sullaubat Khan son of the late Ismael Khan, to that Subah ; five lacks on account of Durbar charges or presents to the principal Durbar officers ; and the remaining thirteen lacks, in liquidation of various claims advanced by this Court, and as a consideration for the title of Seyna Durundar, which was held by the late Mudajee and is now conferred on Raggojee's younger brother Munna Bapoo. I am informed that Raggojee exerted his utmost endurance to procure some written engagement from this Court that in the event of a dispute between him and his brother Chinnajee Bappoo, it should yield him no countenance nor grant him refuge in case of his quitting his territories ; which proved ineffectual, the minister urging that in the event of alleviation it would be impolitic by depriving so dangerous a spirit of a retreat under the protection of this Court, from which it should be most naturally expected from its relation to that of Berar and whose interposition would of course be the most eligible to drive him to seek it from foreign powers.

Your Lordship has already been acquainted with Raggojee's march from hence, at which time I concluded that, after visiting the Kistna, for the performance of some religious ceremonies and ablutions, he would return immediately to Nagpoor, but as the Ministers he left here with a large part of his force have hitherto been unable to furnish satisfactory security for the payment of the sums stipulated, this delay by preventing their marching to join their master on his return from the Kistna, keeps him waiting for them within about twenty or thirty coss of this place ;

which I impute to some private spring in the insidious interested teasing political mechanism of this Court, the best object of which will be that of screwing the Bhonslah into exorbitant payment for the security they may prescribe, while the peculiar circumstances of his family and ministry render it almost impracticable by any vigorous step to extricate himself suddenly from the entanglements that will be constantly prepared for him by the arts of this Durbar.

I was very happy to learn from your Lordships' letter of the 17th of April, that in your approval of General Medow's proposals, one advance had been already made to improving the terms and ascertaining the amount of a regular monthly supply of cash for the Bombay Presidency, which will greatly tend to raise the credit and dignity of the administration under which so beneficial a plan has been proposed and executed. Whether any negotiations here for promoting the same end were at all instrumental to the production of the proposals of Nuggendas I know not, but they have certainly awakened the attention of the shroffs to the advantages which I have expressed and wished to convert to the Company's benefit; as Durrumdas Tekumdas one of the principal shroffs of this place, has already sent agents to Bombay, and Nuggendas Gomastah of Gopaldas, having previously sent persons to explore the state of things here, has within these few days appointed an agent to reside here for the special purpose of taking up all the money procurable at this place for his bills on Benares, so that a competition appears actually to be established between the Houses of Durrumdas and Gopauldas, which may ultimately be productive of more advantageous terms than those yet afforded by Nuggendas to the Bombay Government. In the mean time, I shall use the latitude granted me by your Lordship as I may judge most likely to promote your Lordships' grand object of bringing back the exchange to a reasonable standard, though I think it probable that, if Nuggendas has not such funds at command for supplying his late engagements as will enable him to commence his plan without betraying a necessity of trusting entirely to the negotiation of his bills here, the money holders will take advantage of it to prescribe terms which, though his engagements may oblige him to submit to, would not be with my acceptance.

I have not yet received the orders for the release of the Cambay boat, notwithstanding the Minister's promise as communicated to your Lordship in my last address, and notwithstanding my frequent instances of the damage arising to the owners from detention, and the very different conduct of our Government whenever an opportunity offers of evincing the alacrity and cordiality of its friendship, as acknowledged by the Minister himself in the case of pilgrims and as proved by the late release of a boat by the Resident at Fort Victoria, though justly condemnable. For an explanation of which circumstance, I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the accompanying copy of a letter and its enclosures from the Bombay Government.



It is with concern that I am obliged to accompany a complaint of the dilatoriness of this Court in granting promised redress in one instance, with a representation from the Chief of Surat, of another of the like rapacious and unfriendly spirit in the offices of this Government. Copy of Mr Griffith's letter and my answer are enclosed, to which I have to add for Your Lordship's information, that I acquainted the Minister with the circumstances of the seizure on the 30th ultimo, and shall wait till I hear from the Government of Bombay before I take any further steps in the affair. I cannot however omit this opportunity of repeating what I have already ventured to advance, that I am clearly of opinion that in all cases of encroachment by the officers of this Government, recourse should be had to retaliation with all possible promptitude consistent with the previous and requisite process of friendly explanation and candid declaration, for these people, constantly impelled by avarice and rapacity the efforts of which where Government participates, are if successful, held meritorious, will by no other means be deterred from acts that afford a prospect of immediate advantage, and such is the total absence of all responsibility to public opinion or any other tribunal, by an apprehension of which the acts of rulers should be brought to the standard of equity, that I am persuaded few means however objectionable that gave this Court or any of its branches a prospect of accomplishing its views of interest or ambition, would be rejected from any abhorrence of their inequity, whence an inference arises that the instances of it above submitted to your Lordships' notice or any others to which we may be subjected, are rather imputable to the influence of general causes inherent to the state of this society, than to any particular or pointed enmity towards our nation or your Lordship's Government, which I can venture to affirm continue to preserve that respect and regard which have been so happily reestablished under your Lordship's administration.

The observance of a spirit so inconsistent with an honourable sense of rectitude and a liberal construction of the rules of reciprocity, confirm me in the apprehension suggested in my address of the 17th ultimo of the probability, that difficulty would occur in procuring an equitable settlement for Balloo Meah as prescribed by your Lordship in your letter of 22nd October last, in the event of this Court's getting possession of Gingera, unless previously urged to it by some such coercion as the apprehension of your assent being withdrawn on their evading it, on which point, and for a knowledge of the length I may go in procuring so slender a return for your Lordship's permission to make so valuable an acquisition, permit me to request your commands, observing, for your Lordship's information that I know not any other mode of enforcing so reasonable an expectation but by acquainting the Minister that if he refuses the settlement of a compensation for the Siddee heirs of Gingera in the confidence of which your assent to the capture of that principality from usurpers has been given. Disappointed in the prosecution of

that lust, and from circumstances only practicable friendly act toward the Siddee Family your assent ceased of course and you shall again look on the protection of the principality of Gingira incumbent though at present under an usurped Government in the hope of its reverting at some future period to the rightful heirs. In thus troubling your Lordship I hope you will impute it not to a desire of suggesting what should but what may be done, if in your Lordship's judgment found advisable

Since my last address, such of the cloths sent me by your Lordship as I thought proper have been presented with your letters to the Peshwa and the minister, and the remainder have been distributed to such members of the Durbār as seemed to me entitled to such a mark of attention. They have been received by all with professions of regard and I hope soon to have the honor of transmitting the Peshwah's and minister's answer to your letter.

## No. 78

*Hyderabad, 29th June 1789*

*List of articles presented by Capt Kennaway to His Highness  
the Subah of the Deckan the Nizam on his visit to his  
house the 29th June 1789.*

2 elephants	1 jegah.
2 horses	1 surpench.
1 musical clock	1 pair bazoobund.
1 electrical machine	1 pair Duahbind
1 magic lantern	1 pair Shauls
1 air gun.	2 pieces Shauls Jaunmowar.
1 rifle barrel gun	2 Shaul handkerchiefs.
1 pair 4 barrelled pistol	2 pieces Sattin
1 pair large looking glasses	2 pieces Kimcobb
1 bag containing 500 rupees.	6 pieces Jaundarry Muslin.

**No. 79**—Cornwallis proposes to Malet to secure Cuttuck by an exchange of territory from the Marathas and offers an asylum to Nana at Benares.

FROM—EARL CORNWALLIS;

TO—C. W MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA

*Fort William, 29th June 1789.*

I have been honoured with your letters dated the 17th and 20th ultimo.

I never indulged myself in sanguine hopes that any proposals of ours for obtaining possession of the province of Kuttuk by an exchange of territory would be attended with immediate success and I therefore felt

no disappointment at receiving the account of the result of your late conferences with the Minister and Behroo Punt upon the subject

The negotiation having been opened I shall now only look for the desired effect from patience on our part and the anxiety of the Mahrattas to regain Salsette or from some unforeseen contingencies ; and having expressed my sentiments fully in my letter dated the 5th ultimo on the ideas that had occurred to you for making use of a cession from Balloo Meah to the Company of his rights upon Gujerat (torn) toward the accomplishment of the object that we have in view, I have nothing, at present, to add to my former instructions for your future conduct in this business, only repeating my wish that you should be at pains to impress the minds of the Mahratta Ministers with the belief of its being a point of almost total indifference to this government, whether the proposed exchange can be effected or not, leaving the burden entirely upon them to make whatever new propositions they may think proper for our consideration.

It has been a matter of no small surprize to me that the Mahratta Minister should hesitate in admitting the true meaning of the 1st article of the treaty of 1739 which has been confirmed by so many subsequent treaties, and that they should attempt to evade or delay on any instance the execution of it

I trust that the boat and cargoes belonging to Cambay, which was seized on the coast of Guzerat, has been long ago returned to the owner, and consequently, that my interference in that case has become unnecessary.

I wish, however, that you should take the first favourable opportunity to inform the Minister, that all the circumstances of that transaction had been communicated to me, and that they had given me very great surprize and concern. For, considering as I do, that all the Company's servants, subjects or dependents whether belonging to subordinate or principal settlements, as clearly entitled by public treaties to carry on their lawful commerce without interruption under the Company's colours, I can neither suffer those colours to be insulted nor any injury to be offered to the property or to the persons of individuals to whom they may have been granted, and that, however painful it might be to me to take any steps which could be construed by our neighbours as bearing marks of unkindness to the Peshwa's Government, I had expressed the strongest determination not to permit such an act as the seizure of the above-mentioned boat, to pass without public demand of satisfaction and complete indemnification.

You may inform the minister that I have, with the utmost readiness and pleasure, given directions to the Resident at Benares to receive his Dewan with the greatest personal civility, and to give him every degree of countenance and assistance that he can desire, to enable him to build

a house at that city according to his Master's commands ; and you will add, that should Nanna execute his intention of paying a visit to Benares, he may be assured, that I shall take effectual measures to secure to him in the Company's provinces all those marks of attention and respect to which he has a claim from his rank and dignity in the Mahratta State, as well as from the consideration and high esteem which I have for his personal character

The questions that were put to you with so much earnestness by Behroo Punt seem to furnish ground to suppose that even the Minister himself looks to the possibility of circumstances arising in the internal politics of the Mahratta Government, which may render Benares at some future day a desirable place of retirement for him

It would be no less suitable to our interest in this country than it is conformable to the genius and principles of the British constitution, that it should be universally understood in India, that it is our general maxim to give an hospitable reception and complete protection to all strangers who may think proper to take up their residence in any part of our dominions excepting only such as may have fled from their own country to avoid punishment for atrocious crimes, and that we consider Benares, in particular, being the principal seat of the Hindoo religion, as a sacred asylum for all those of that faith, who may resort to it occasionally for religious purposes, or for those who may choose to settle and end their days in it, on account of their belief in its sanctity.

You, may therefore, when the subject is again agitated, make a declaration to the above effect to Behroo Punt, and you may add, as a further explanation of my sentiments upon this point, that I can hardly suppose it possible that a case could exist in which it would be justifiable in this Government to violate Benares as a sacred sanctuary by giving up any person who had chosen it as a place of retirement and who had come to it with the knowledge and consent of his own state

I apprehended a short time ago, that the account between the Company and His Highness the Nizam could only be finally adjusted at Hyderabad. But having lately entered into full discussion of several of the points on which there were some difference of opinion, I have reason to believe that Meer Abdul Kassim is now sensible of the propriety of the grounds on which the statement of that account was made by me and that it will soon be settled at this place to our mutual satisfaction.

The Minister will probably hear that a squadron of ships of war, under the command of my brother, is soon expected in this country, and as the report may, unless obviated by explanation, occasion surmises at Poona, either of disturbances being apprehended between Britain and some European power or of our intention to prosecute new designs in India, you may assure Nanna that this squadron has been sent for no other reason than from its appearing proper that so large territorial

possessions as ours should not, in the event of extraordinary occurrences, be entirely destitute of the assistance of a naval force

It will no doubt be likewise known at Poona that the French have come to a resolution to withdraw the greatest part of their force from Pondicherry which I conceive should be considered as a piece of agreeable intelligence to the Mahratta State

**No. 80**—Jonathan Duncan Resident at Benares informs Malet of his readiness to grant Nana Fadnis an hospitable residence at that place

FROM—JONATHAN DUNCAN, RESIDENT, BANARES,

TO—C. W MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Benares, 30th June 1789*

I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 20th ultimo, transmitted through Mhadajee Pundit, the agent of Nanna Furnavese

It affords me the greatest satisfaction to find that the Minister at Poona is satisfied with the administration of the British Government at Benares, and it has been, and shall continue to be my earnest and constant endeavour to render its capital, under the very favourable influence of the Governor-General in Council, an agreeable and secure place of resort to the natives who from religious motives flock to it from all parts of India.

I need hardly add, that as far as regards the object of your present recommendation, every motive must induce me to realize the expectations formed by Nana Furnavese, and I trust that the future reports of his agent will confirm in that Minister's mind the favourable impressions already received by him.

**No. 81**—This letter reveals the masterful personality of Lord Cornwallis in laying respectful but emphatic protests against several measures and dealings between the Marathas and the Co.

FROM—EARL CORNWALLIS.

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 26th August 1789.*

Since my last to you dated the 25th of June, I have received your letters dated the 3rd and 26th of June and 13th ultimo.

The motives which induced me to instruct you to communicate the principal part of the result of my conferences with the Nizam's Vackeel Meer Abdul Kossim to the Peshwa's administration had undoubtedly a claim to a readier and warmer acknowledgment than they met with from the Mahrattas, as marks of confidence and friendship from this Government.

Your remarks on the occasion, and your answers to Nanna's questions were perfectly proper and notwithstanding the coldness with which that communication was at first received, I wish you to avoid the least indication of the ill humour or appearance of mystery in future respecting any part of the late negotiation with the Nizam and as you will be in possession of all the circumstances relating to it from the papers that I have ordered to be transmitted to you, you will have it in your power to convey the substance of them to the Minister, either all together at one conference, or from time to time, as you may judge most expedient.

The opinions which you gave on the ideas of the Minister's sending ambassadors to England and on the reports that had been propagated respecting the result of Tippoo's mission to France, were judicious and entirely conformable to my wishes. You may on all occasions assure the Ministers with confidence that although I am well convinced that the powers which have been delegated to this Government are fully adequate to every point of negotiation which is compatible with the present pacific system of Britain, yet that if they should be of opinion that any advantage could arise to the Mahratta State by sending a deputation to England I shall not only give my ready consent, but shall also be at pains to procure a convenient passage for their envoys as well as an honourable reception for them upon their arrival in Europe.

I am so unwilling to alarm the jealousy of the Mahrattas that unless Captain Reynolds can point out any important object for another excursion, I do not wish that further application should be made at present to the Mahrattas for that purpose, and he may in the meantime employ himself in arranging and protracting (?) the surveys that he has already made.

It is in every respect proper that you should be fully informed of the substance of every material instruction to Major Palmer or conference between him and Scindia, and I shall therefore direct that a copy of all correspondence between Major Palmer and myself shall in future be transmitted to you.

I shall be extremely glad to offer the present of globes and maps that you recommend to the young Peshwa, and as it will be necessary to procure them from England, an application shall be made to the Court of Directors for them, with a request that they be sent out with all possible dispatch.

I am apprehensive that Nana and Behroo Punt have expected amongst the assortments of Dacca cloths some of that kind of cloth of extreme fineness which has long been highly valued in India, but of which there has been little or none manufactured for many years past in that province.

I am however much obliged to you for mentioning the expectations of the Durbar, and I shall take care that the most particular attention

shall be paid to the quality of the next assortment of cloth that goes from hence to be presented to them

It would be extremely unpleasant to me, and I am well aware that in the present situation of affairs in India it would be highly inconvenient to this Government to be obliged to take any steps or even to hold a language that could be construed by the Peshwah's Ministers as symptoms of any change in our friendship to the Mahrattas or that even could have the effect of too much mortifying their own private feelings. I am however called upon by a sense of indispensable duty to take particular notice of the late transactions respecting Gingira and of the repeated complaints that I have received of vessels under English colours that have been wrecked or driven on shore on the Mahratta coasts having been seized and detained by the Pundits or Aumildars of Olpar and Jamboosui in direct defiance of the treaties actually subsisting between the Honourable Company and the Mahiatta State.

I shall depend upon your prudence and good sense to make use of the most civil and temperate language, but you will take the first opportunity that may appear to you most proper, to convey to the Minister in explicit terms that I am much dissatisfied on both the heads that I have mentioned. You will recall to his recollection that from a regard to my own personal character, as well as to the credit of the British Nation, I have in every instance, and particularly in the answer that I gave to his proposition respecting Gingira, acted in the most candid, liberal, and undisguised manner to the Peshwa's Government and after reminding him of his inattention to my recommendation that some decent provision should be made for Balloo Meah and his brother and exposing in the clearest light the offensive nature of the conduct of the Soubadar of Sevundroog in framing or abetting the late mysterious design upon Gingira, without your having received any previous communication of such an intention and in violating the rights of the Company's possessions by sending boats under cover of an artifice too flimsy to be concealed, to pass the Mahratta troops over the Bancoot river within the boundaries of the settlement of Fort Victoria, you will state that whilst I have been extremely mortified at receiving so unsuitable a return to my openness, I think it a duty incumbent upon me to take care that the line of conduct which the Peshwah's Ministers seem resolved to follow and which was so little expected by me, shall not prove detrimental to the reputation or the interests of the English.

Upon that principle and for the reasons that I have stated, you will inform the Minister that I not only expect that the Soubadar of Sevundroog shall be punished in an exemplary manner for committing the violation that I have stated of the rights of the territories of the Company, but also declare to him that I cannot but consider the former declaration that I made of the intentions of this Government respecting Gingira rendered null and void by the unfriendly conduct above stated on the

part of the Mahrattas, and that I must now look upon myself as having the same right to interfere with regard to the affairs of the Siddees of Ginjira as before that declaration was made according to the terms of the treaty of 1761.

You will have already communicated my sentiments to the Minister on the true and clear meaning of the treaty of 1776 and the unjustifiable conduct of Pundits or Aumildars of Oorpar and Jumboosur in seizing and detaining vessels under the protection of the English flag that have been so unfortunate as to be stranded on the coasts of the districts under their authority, and I desire that you will again represent to him that such acts are not only shocking to humanity and contrary to the practice of all civilized nations but are direct breaches of the treaties subsisting between the Peshwa's Government and the Company

I am willing to hope that your representation will awaken the Ministers to a sense of justice and to a proper regard to the existing engagements between the two Governments and that they will adopt effectual measures to prevent the repetition of similar acts of violence and barbarity, but they either refuse or appear backward to give a reasonable satisfaction and indemnification to the sufferers for the injuries that have been already committed and to give the most solemn assurances that they will take means that will effectually obviate all grounds for future complaints of a similar nature. You will give the Minister clearly to understand that whilst on one hand he has had sufficient opportunity to observe my scrupulous regard to the faith of treaties, and the spirit of moderation with which I have conducted myself to all the Princes in India, he will find on the other hand an equal determination to resent any injury or insult that may be offered to subjects or persons dependent on the Hon'ble Company by any power whatever; and that however painful it may be to my own feelings to do any act which may bear on an unfriendly appearance towards the Mahrattas, I shall not waste my time in unavailing remonstrances but shall certainly order reprisals to be made upon Mahratta subjects for the indemnification of those who have a right to claim our protection

I shall conclude with repeating that I have so much confidence in your ability and prudence, as to be persuaded that you will convey the substance of the above instructions with all the degree of delicacy in words and manner which is due to the Ministers of a powerful State and which is the more requisite, as notwithstanding the late causes which they have given us for some dissatisfaction, it is evidently the real interest of both parties to live with each other on a general footing of good understanding and friendship

The enclosed copy of Major Palmer's last letter to me and of my answer to it, will give you full information on the principal points that are at present under discussion between Sindia and this Government.



**No. 82**—Articles of British workmanship are sent as presents to Nana Fadnis by the Company's authorities in London.

*Extract from the Honourable Company's General letter dated 8th April 1789, enclosed in a letter from the Secretary at Bombay, dated 23rd September 1789.*

*Bombay, 23rd September 1789*

Mr Boddam, your late Governor has furnished us with an extract of a letter from Mr Malet, the Resident at Poona, expressing his wishes that some pieces of workmanship in plaster of Paris and a Suit of Armour might be sent out to him for Nanna Furneze, the Principal Minister at the Poona Durbar. We have accordingly shipped on board the London, Sundry articles, agreeably to the enclosed list, which are to be presented to that Minister in our name, in such manner as you shall think proper, and which we hope he will receive as an earnest of our wishes to continue upon the most friendly terms with the Mahratta Nation

*List of sundry articles shipped on board the London, to be presented to Nana Furnese.\**

Number of the cases		Number of pieces in each case
1	Bacchus and Diana .	2
2	Ceres and shifting Venus . .	2
3	Apollo and Ogrippiana	2
4	Germanicus and Melancholy .	2
5	The Roman Decii (A Group) .	1
6	The King and Floia .	2
7	Bacchus and Ariadne and Moses ..	2
8	Hercules, Venus, Bacchante .	3
9	Ana and Poetus Menelaus and Patrochus ..	2
10	Two Cows and a Bull . ..	3
11	Numa and Byblis and Caunus .	2
12	Hindu Cupid . .	1
13	Two Cows .	2

East India House,  
10th April 1789.

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\* There are also diagrams showing how the armour was to be worn.

**No. 83**—Intimation is sent to Malet that six privates from an English regiment had deserted and gone into Maratha territory

FROM—ROBERT BOWLES,

TO—MAJOR GEORGE HART, DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL.

*Tannah, 25th September 1789.*

Six Privates belonging to the first Bombay Regiment of Europeans having deserted over the ramparts of Tannah Fort last night and as I suppose immediately proceeded across to the Mahratta side of the river, I beg leave to inform you of the same, as perhaps the General, by being made acquainted with it may find means to have them taken up, by sending information to Mr Malet at Ponnah, to which place deserters generally proceed Their names are Henry Dowdy, Cormie Oniel, John Richardson, John Digmon, John Moiry and James O'Niel. Terence O'Byan is another private of the Regiment who deserted in the same manner in the night of the 13th instant and has not yet been heard of The first abovementioned got out of the Fort by a rope ladder some time ago with three others, but they were all taken the next day, and we are in great hopes that these will be taken also, as Mr Farmer has offered a reward of 30 rupees for each man, which will have a very good and sure effect in case they are near our districts

**No. 84**—Cornwallis allows Malet to receive a formal visit from the Peshwa.

FROM—CORNWALLIS,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 9th October 1789.*

Mr. Hay has communicated to me an extract of a letter which you have written to him, mentioning that Behro Pant had renewed the intimation, which had been formerly sent to you, of the Peshwa's desire to pay you a visit I have no objection to your receiving this compliment from him, and wish you to signify the same to the Peshwa, when a proper opportunity offers. Every form that may be necessary upon such an occasion will of course be observed, and I shall trust implicitly to your discretion that no expense shall be incurred on your part, that may not be indispensably required to support the character of your station, and of the Government you represent.

**No. 85**—This is quite a long letter in which Malet communicates to the Governor General the aims and the objects of the Poona Court. He reports the celebrations in Poona on account of the Peshwa's wife coming of age, the visits and dinner which Malet had at the Peshwa's palace, the revocation by the Governor General of the arrangement about the affair of Janjira, Nana Fadnis' intention to retire to Benares, these being some of the topics dealt with.

FROM—MR. C. W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 23rd October 1789.*

On the 10th instant it was formally announced to me as an event of great joy and gladness, that the Peshwa's wife had discovered the first signs of puberty, and on the 11th instant I received a visit from the eldest son of Jannoba Dada, the Soubahdar of the province and city of Poona, who delivered an invitation from the Peshwa to dine with him on the ensuing day, to which though indisposed I assented. In the interim, it was signified to me by Behroo Punt that it would be proper on this occasion which in joyfulness preceded almost all others, to present a congratulatory Nuzzur to the Peshwa, to which I hesitated, as never having yet performed that ceremony at this Durbar, nor having any precedent for it, professing at the same time to make such congratulatory presents or Touazoo\* as should be consistent with the dignity of my station and the friendship subsisting between the Governments. In reply Behroo Punt assured me that the offering of the Nuzzur was constantly practised by the Honourable Company's Residents at Hyderabad, and asked me if the Peshwa was inferior in dignity or in our esteem to Nizam-ul-Doula's, but as a still further value for any scruples that I might entertain, he was ready to compound that my Nuzzur should be presented by my Munshy or Dewan. The footing on which Behroo Punt had placed the point and the consideration of the need I should soon have for all my personal good-will with the Durbar, induced me to accede to Behroo Punt's proposal through an agent on the faith of his assurance of the practice at Hyderabad. Accordingly on the 12th when I proceeded agreeable to my invitation to the Durbar, I ordered my Munshy to provide himself with the requisite number of Venetians and Gold Rupees, but was a good deal surprised after taking my place, to learn from Behroo Punt that the Nuzzur would not be acceptable unless presented by myself, which I absolutely declined being averse to the performance of an act for which I had no precedent at this Court and of which Behroo Punt could not quote one, whence I inferred that my predecessors must have deemed the practice too humiliating for adoption. Still however desirous of convincing Behroo Punt of my adherence to my word I offered

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\* Touazoo = A present

to cause the oblation to be made by my Munshee, and on his declining that, to rest the whole on reference to the Resident at Hyderabad, which was assented to and there the affair now rests. But as I do not expect Captain Kennaway's answer to arrive in time for the regulation of my conduct on the general invitation that will in a day or two be sent to all persons of distinction at this Capital, to wait on the Peshwa in celebration of this joyful event, I shall satisfy myself with the usual presents or *Touazoo* of cloths, *Serpech* etc., and for my regulation in future have to request your Lordship's sentiments on the offering up of the *Nuzzur*, observing for your information that there are many persons both civil and military in this State who, from regard to their personal or official dignity are exempted from it though the usual complimentary presents of cloths etc. which are distinguished by the terms of *Muddara* (*Mudarat*)\* and *Touazoo*, are exchanged by all. Having sat some time with the Peshwa, during which Major Rennell's map of Hindostan was introduced, and many enquiries made of places in it, dinner was announced and myself and the gentlemen of my party were now conducted to it by Behroo Punt, The Minister and Hurry Punt went by another way, and met us in the Dinner Room. The dinner was composed of different preparations of Milk-Rice dressed in various ways, Bread of several kinds, with great variety of Greens, sweetmeats, pickles etc. all disposed in a manner very pleasing to the eye on plantain leaves spread upon carpeting on the floor. On our taking our places, the Minister and Hurry Punt seated themselves at a small distance, where they were soon after joined by the Peshwa, who continued there till we had nearly done the dinner, which I was given to understand was a piece of attention seldom shewn to other guests. When we had dined, the Minister and Hurry Punt returned to the Durbar Room, whither we soon followed accompanied by Behroo Punt. The Peshwa entered immediately after when having sat about an hour during which we were entertained with dancing and singing, we took our leave and retired.

On the 13th instant a *Dauk* dispatched from Calcutta reached me of which I meant to have taken advantage to have demanded another audience of the Regent Minister to communicate your Lordship's sentiments relative to the principality of Gingera but having waited in vain diminution of the indisposition with which I was then and still am troubled till the 15th instant, and judging it improper any longer to delay a communication of so great importance when the excursion of this Court was so near at hand, and when in the interval something decided might be effected against Gingera, I requested a visit from Behroo Punt with which he favoured me on the 16th. At this meeting after seriously recapitulating the general candour of your Lordship's conduct to this and all the Courts of Hindostan, and particularizing many of the numerous instances of cordiality that had been shewn to this Durbar, I contrasted

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\* A present of cloth

it with the extraordinary reserve with which the Minister treated so liberal and so friendly a disposition, I strongly urged that the most warm and generous minds were the most easily chilled by slight and inattention, and that neither public nor private honor could submit to pursue a friendship however desirable through a sacrifice of personal reputation, and surrender of the national honor and interests, yet this, I told him, however strange it might appear, was the dangerous predicament in which your Lordship found yourself with this Government in the affair of Gingera. I then in strong terms pointed out to him the unbecoming conduct of this Court in return for the generous and disinterested assent that your Lordship had given to its views on that principality and concluded with assuring him, that your Lordship found yourself so much at a loss to reconcile what had passed to the rules of civility and reciprocity, and so very insecure of the accomplishment of the only moderate condition that had been annexed to the original assent from the neglect with which it had hitherto been treated, that I was commanded by your Lordship formally to revoke and annul the assent that had been formerly granted to this Court's designs on the principality of Gingera, which principality was in future to be looked on by the British and Mahratta Governments in the light placed by the treaty of 1761, and that I accordingly did through him communicate to the Mahratta Government the said revocation and consequent establishment of the principality of Gingera on the footing of the treaty of 1761.

Though Behroo Punt discovered much surprize and concern at this explicit declaration, yet on a free discussion of the subject and on hearing the additional arguments in justification of your Lordship's decision which I drew from the constant misbehaviour of the Coast Officers of this State to our shipping, and the tardiness of the Durbar in granting redress; added to the real ground that your Lordship had for apprehending that this Court, now so backward to make a suitable allowance for Balloo Meah would be more so after the acquisition of Gingera, whereby your Lordship would be placed in a very mortifying situation, he could not help discovering signs of acquiescence in the reasonableness of your Lordship's resolution, and betrayed a greater solicitude to devise expedients for again rendering it more favorable than dissatisfaction at its present complexion, and importuning me with great earnestness to favour him with my sentiments as to the mode of effecting a favourable change in your Lordship's sentiments, I took the liberty, under the previous assurances of its being entirely personal and unauthorized, of suggesting that the most reasonable mode of proceeding was candidly to acknowledge the improper delay in fixing a compensation for Balloo Meah and the irregular precipitate conduct of the Aumil of Severndroog in his attack on the Gingera district through our royalties in the Bancoot River, to rectify the former by an immediate and equitable settlement, and atone for the latter, by an adequate and public correction of the

officer To this I added that I hoped the disagreeable alternative to which your Lordship had been driven in the present instance would induce this Court to shew in future a greater readiness to redress the occasional wrong of our seafaring commercial subjects, and not to presume that because we did not pursue our claims with clamour and importunity, we were insensible to insult and injury, which we think to be known by this Court ought to be sufficient to procure redress ; but that should we find ourselves systematically disappointed in our just expectations, we should be justified in the opinion of the world and of all reasonable men in having recourse to those means which we possess of checking violence and retaliating injuries I reminded him also of the promises made me by the Minister at our meeting of the 7th instant to terminate all the points at present under consideration before the Peshwa proceeded to Nassuck In reply to this part of my discourse Behroo Punt expressed much satisfaction with the expedient I had proposed, as the most likely to procure a favourable change in your Lordship's sentiments on the subject of Gingera, nor did he suggest a single difficulty to its adoption except in the settlement of the compensatory assignment of Balloo Meah in the amount, of which he was ingenuous enough to tell me that this Court would to the utmost of its power to act with its usual parsimony with respect to our boats and vessels He repeated the former promises of settling all those points before the Peshwa's departure.

I took this opportunity of making known to Behroo Punt your Lordship's instructions with respect to the idea of this Court of sending ambassadors to Europe as signified in your Lordship's letter of the 26th August and begged he would communicate them to the Minister

At this meeting Behroo Punt asked me, as though without premeditation, if your Lordship could be prevailed on to grant this Court a promise of occasional aid in the same manner as that made to Nizam Ally I replied that the stipulation in favour of Nizam Ally was in compliance with an ancient treaty, the execution of which was now modified by your Lordship's regard for candour and peispicuity and friendship towards this state ; that I did not perceive any plea on which such an expectation could be entertained by this Court, and that exclusive thereof, he best knew whether the conduct of this Government tended to that close and cordial amity which was the source of mutual and important benefits

Behroo Punt in the style of common conversation talked of the Minister's intention of visiting Benares at some future period when the Peshwa arrived at years of maturity and should have no further occasion for his guardian care He likewise mentioned his own desire of performing that pilgrimage and seemed desirous to collect what treatment and reception they might expect from our Government In reply to which I repeated the satisfactory assurances contained in your Lordship's letter of 29th June last on that point. On combining this part of Behroo

Punt's discourse with that relative to an advance to gaining a detachment of our troops, a conjecture has arisen in my mind that both ideas might have originated in some view to the future instability of the present domestic arrangements of this state of which I think it probable that such advantage might be taken as your Lordship may deem compatible with the interests and dignity of your Government and the faith of public engagements. The additional personal attentions that I have lately experienced also induce me to think that there are some circumstances within the ken of this Ministry that influence their conduct, probably the distracted state of affairs in the North, the arrival of the Squadron under Commodore Cornwallis, or the rumours arising from some preparations making at Bombay to punish the insolence of the Corsairs of the Rajah of Pannellee, may separately or collectively teach them the necessity of conclusion, but the grand test of their disposition rests on the answer to your Lordship's declaration relative to Gingera and I am sanguine enough to hope and expect that it will be honourable and satisfactory to your Lordship's Government.

As to the state of dissensions amongst its chieftains in Hindostan this Court studiously endeavours to remove them from public observation and proceeds in every thing regarding them with great secrecy, yet from the very serious personal and political causes of jealousy, rivalry and even enmity by which those chieftains are now actuated and in which this Court is deeply interested, I confess that I cannot discern any feasible mode, during the life of the parties by which those differences are likely to be accommodated and this Government be again put in possession of its full authority over the actions of the disputants, and I am equally free to confess, my Lord, that I am not sorry for this prospect of the continuance of dissensions amongst those whose union will ever be a pest to their neighbours.

Thinking it necessary, in order to give effect to your Lordship's declaration to this Court relative to Gingera, that the Bombay Board should be acquainted therewith, I addressed General Medows on the 17th instant and have the honour to enclose a copy for your Lordship's notice.

On the 20th I received an invitation to wait on the Peshwa the ensuing day, which was appointed for the celebration of the joyful event of his wife's puberty when he would receive in public Durbar the congratulations and presents of all persons of distinction; but being prevented by indisposition, I deputed my assistant Mr Uhthoff to offer a suitable present, and to make the requisite professions, on the part of your Lordship, accompanied with an assurance of my concern at not being able to go through so agreeable a ceremony in person.

No. 86—This is another important letter which, although printed by Ross (end of Vol. 1) is repeated here as it clearly exemplifies the zeal, foresight and capacity with which Lord Cornwallis conducted the affairs of the Company, raised the British power in the estimation of the public and gradually lowered the prestige of the Marathas.

FROM—EARL CORNWALLIS,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA

*Fort William, 18th December 1789*

Sir,

I have received since the date of my last letter your letters dated the 23rd and 30th of October and 6th and 12th ultimo, and the distinct account of your late conferences with the Mahratta Ministers as well as the manner in which you have treated the subjects that were under negotiation, have given me entire satisfaction.

I am willing to consider the apologies and explanations which Nanna has given in respect to the business of Gingera as an atonement for those parts of the conduct of the Mahrattas of which I have already complained; but the indelicacy with which they acted in making an attempt upon that place without previously communicating their design to you and the inattention which they have hitherto shown to my recommendation in favour of Balloo Meah and his brother, render it expedient to make them feel an inconvenience from their forcing me to behave to them with a certain degree of coldness and reserve.

My wish therefore is that you should convey to the Peshwa's Ministers in guarded language that it has been no small disappointment to me to meet with so unsuitable a return from them to the openness and liberality with which I have invariably acted, and without entirely discouraging their hopes of my renewing my assent to their proceeding in their endeavours to obtain possession of Gingera, you may state to them that a regard for my own character and for the duties of my public station oblige me to take more previous precautions in my transactions with them than in my own opinion is proper between Governments who profess a mutual friendship for each other, and whose interests are so intimately connected, that I must therefore decline coming to any determination whether I can think myself authorized to renew my former declaration regarding Gingera until I shall be perfectly satisfied that a liberal provision has been made for the rightful owners of it and you may add that I trust they will in the mean time pay the strictest attention to the treaty of 1761 by avoiding to prosecute any design upon that place without the express consent of this Government.

I must likewise desire that you will take the first favourable opportunity that offers to discuss the grounds upon which we have demanded the restitution of boats or vessels belonging to persons living under the protection of the Company that have been seized at different times on the Mahratta Coasts, and after making my acknowledgments for the



friendly manner in which Nanna gave you assurances through Behroo Punt that all the boats which had been stopped at different times should be immediately restored and that effectual means should be taken to prevent a repetition of similar injuries in future, you are to give him to understand in the clearest terms that although I shall always entertain a proper sense of every mark of friendship and confidence in the Poona Government, yet that in the present instance the right of the English to demand complete security for the persons and property of their subjects and all others living under their protection is so perfectly established by public stipulations that I could look upon the deliberate seizure or detention of the property or persons of people of that description by any Mahratta subjects with the sanction of their own Government, in no other light than that of a violation of the treaty of 1776; and, for the purpose of discovering whether the Minister would be jealous of any interference from Sindia you may add that although I have not hitherto thought it necessary to desire to know the sentiments of Sindia who is guarantee of our treaties with the Mahratta State, yet I am confident that on the point in question he would be ready to admit our right to be clear and indisputable.

It will always be with great reluctance that I shall make use of menacing expressions to a power which we have reason to believe is sincerely disposed to live in general terms of amity with us, but, as forbearance on our part beyond certain bounds would not only be unjust to the subjects and dependents of the English Company but might also encourage the Mahrattas to become inattentive in future to similar representations, you may take occasion to hint in plain terms to the Minister that in the event of any more of our vessels being seized or detained by the Mahratta Officers and of redress being refused or unreasonably delayed by the Peshwa's Ministers, you know it to be my determination to take effectual means for procuring indemnification for ourselves. But you may at the same time assure him that should any of the Company's subjects be concerned in collusive practices in coveting the property of others, I shall most readily concur with him in taking such steps as may be necessary to bring them to exemplary punishment.

Although amongst other external marks of respect we have hitherto submitted to the humiliating ceremony of presenting Nuzzers to the Princes of the House of Timur, I doubt much whether that practice is either politic or necessary, but, far from admitting a similar claim from the Peshwa, I expect that all the Princes of this Country except those of the Royal Family shall habituate themselves to consider the English residents at their respective Courts as the representatives of a Government equal in power and dignity to their own and consequently entitled to claim an exemption from those marks of submission which are exacted from inferior states as well as from all their own subjects. I therefore highly approve of your having declined, previous to your

communicating with Captain Kennaway to present a Nuzzur with your own hands to the Peshwa and I must likewise desire that you will never even through the medium of one of your servants agree to place yourself in so degrading a situation, as it would tend to lessen the dignity of the British Government in the eyes of the other Powers of this Country

I conceive it to be very consistent with the finesse and cunning of the Brahmin character to throw out hints occasionally of their intentions to send ambassadors to England without actually having any idea of carrying the design into execution, but only with the hopes of rendering this Government more pliant from an apprehension that the negotiation of any points on which difficulties arise may be carried from hence into another channel

I can in reality have not the smallest objection to their sending an embassy to England upon any other ground than that of the probability of its becoming in some degree troublesome and embarrassing to the King and his Minister and also of its proving the cause of considerable expense to the *Company*

I desire however that you will on every occasion when the subject may be mentioned by the Marhatta Ministers treat it in an unaffected manner as a measure on which I am entirely indifferent, and you may in the same way still assure them, that when they resolve to carry it into execution, I shall be happy to do everything in my power to render the passage of their envoys as expeditious and convenient as possible

Should they contrary to all likelihood actually determine to send an embassy, it would be my desire to give them every possible assistance, but in any event, you may, in the course of conversation, take an opportunity to inform them, that in order to command respect from our Government at home it would in my opinion be indispensably necessary for them to employ men of rank as their ambassadors, that there would be no chance of any European being well received in that character and that I do not imagine that the King and his Ministers or the Directors of the Company would suppose them to be in earnest if they professed to have entrusted the negotiation of points of consequence to their interests to any other persons than such as have been born subjects and are known to hold a distinguished rank in the Marhatta State

The secret dispatches which were received from home last season not only approved of our late transactions with the Nizam but also gave some latitude to form a closer connection with him if it should be found expedient

There appear to be several objections at present to our contracting separate engagements with that Prince and it seems also extremely doubtful whether we could derive any benefit from engaging in new treaties of any kind with His Highness even in conjunction with the Marhattas, tho' that measure might in some points of view be less exceptionable

Upon the supposition that I have already stated of the designs of the Marhatta Ministers in holding forth an intention of sending an embassy to England, it would prove disadvantageous to us if they should see

reason to suppose that their arts had been successful in creating any jealousy in this Government of their carrying such a plan into execution

It will, therefore, be necessary that you should be particularly guarded in your manner when you appear to show more attention than formerly to any of their propositions for a closer union than at present subsists between the two Governments. But should Behroo Punt or Nanna renew such conversations as they have frequently held with you on this subject, I should wish that you would, as proceeding entirely from yourself and as being induced to it from a desire to increase the good understanding between them and the Company, show a disposition to transmit to me any detailed plan that the Minister should arrange for entering into new agreements for the purpose of promoting the mutual benefit of both nations, only remarking as a friend in the course of the discussions, that you do not think that it would be advisable in us to enter into a stipulation similar to that which we have contracted with the Nizam to furnish a certain number of troops when required, at a fixed rate of expense because the settlement of the account which is simple with His Highness from our being able to deduct the expense of the troops from the Pescush due by the Company for the Northern Sircars, might furnish ground for much altercation with the Marrattas from the difficulty of their allotting a fixed and independant fund for that purpose, and that you cannot conceive it to be possible that anything beyond a liberal and reciprocally advantageous system for a defensive alliance would have the most distant chance of success

After having said so much, it is proper that you should know that I cannot bring myself to expect that Nanna would make propositions of a nature to which I should think myself authorized to give my immediate assent, unless we should have reason to apprehend that we were on the eve of a rupture with Tippoo, yet if they appeared upon the whole to be calculated to suit the political interests of the Company I should be disposed to forward them to England with a favourable recommendation, and we should in the meantime have the advantage, without doing any injury to them, in encouraging the Marrattas to continue to look to our alliance as a primary object of their political pursuits

You will on all occasions when Nanna's or Behroo Punt's intention to visit Benares happens to be mentioned, repeat the strongest assurances that if they should actually retire to the holy city, they will be certain of being treated with the utmost respect by all the officers of this Government and of enjoying the most complete protection for their persons and property during the time that they may think proper to reside within the Company's provinces

Should the Ministers in talking of retiring to Benares have any other design in view than that of executing their avowed purpose they will soon see that their cunning will have no effect and that this Government will not easily be surprised into any disadvantageous agreement.

I shall always approve of your granting passports to any persons who may be employed by the Poona Government to purchase elephants and piece-goods at Benares and of every other step that you can take to facilitate a free commercial intercourse between all parts of the Deccan and these provinces and you have my sanction to deliver the presents that you have already received, and all others that may hereafter arrive from England for the Peshwa or the Minister at the times that you think will be most proper, without making any further application to me for my acquiescence

The disingenuous and narrow minded jealousy which the Mahratta Ministers have manifested in the business of the Dawk between Poona and Bombay I must say is truly contemptible, and you may take the first opportunity to inform them what I said upon your communicating the particulars to me, that as the Dawk is to be supported entirely at our own expense and intended for no other purpose than that of facilitating the intercourse of people of all descriptions between the two sides of India and in the convenience of which even some of their own subjects might participate, I was astonished to hear that the Ministers of a great nation could descend to such littleness of conduct, that I do not choose to receive as a favour so trifling an indulgence, that they may therefore object to it if they think proper, and that it will at all times be much less offensive to me that they should candidly and openly decline a compliance with any of my requests, than that they should after giving a promise make use of subterfuges to evade the performance of it.

If General Medows should be appointed to the Government of Madras and Colonel Abercromby to that of Bombay, I should approve very much of your taking as early an opportunity as the business of your station will admit, to pay a visit to Colonel Abercromby, after General Medows's departure that you might communicate the material parts of your public correspondence to him, and give him every kind of information which could tend to make him perfectly master of all the political business in which that Government is concerned

**No. 87**—Malet discourses on the correct titles to be used in the correspondence between the Peshwa and the Governor General, so as to preserve the proper dignity of the latter.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—G. T. CHERRY, PERSIAN TRANSLATOR, FORT WILLIAM.

*Poona, 8th January 1790*

On the 29th ultimo I was favoured with your letter of the 26th November. Agreeing as I do with you in the opinion that the style of Behro Punt's letter to the Governor General judged of by the rules of Indian etiquette was too familiar from a person of his rank, I think the Sirnama of his Lordship's answer was a proper correction of it. It is indeed my opinion that a correspondence with such secondary members of foreign Courts can be productive of no good end, and may do much

harm, by multiplying difficulties with agents ; for every agent will, as far as he may be able, convert any confidence reposed in him to personal and private interest and as I took the liberty of mentioning this in my address to his Lordship of 7th July last when I forwarded B P's letter, and as his Lordship's answer refers him to me in future, I presume there will be no occasion to take notice of any letter that he may now write to the Governor General.

Never having seen the inside of any of the Peshwa's or Nanna Furnaveese's letters to the Governor General, I was much surprized to learn from your letter that the former assumed the style of "Ma-be-Doulut" which I thought, and still think, had been peculiar to sovereign Princes or what in Europe we should term "Crowned Heads". Now though the Peshwa is the executive head of this State, yet are his rank and titles merely delegatory from the Rajas of Sittarra, as you will collect from the impression of his great seal viz., "Raja Sahu Nurputtee Huisha-nidhan, Mahdarao Narrain Mook Purdhan". Which may be interpreted, "Madarao Narrain the Minister of the presence or ever in the Presence, of Raja Sao of Virile or manly or Heroic dignity ever happy". The seal or Sicca which accompanies any of the great officers of this empire on foreign service, differs from the above in the omission of the word Mook and is thence called the Tynattec or delegated Sicca, while the others called Huzoor or Presence Sicca

After thus establishing that the Peshwa's dignity is secondary to the Raja's, it may not be unworthy notice to mention that the Rajas also acknowledged the superiority of the Kings of Dehly by addressing them by Arzee, and by coming their money with the Mogul impression. Indeed, notwithstanding the present power of the Peshwas, there are still many members of this Empire that in point of ceremony, challenge equality with him, and I am credibly informed that former Peshwas used to address the Nizams of the Deccan by Arzee though with the increase of their power they have changed it to "Mehrban Muklisan" in the latter of which words an acknowledgment of superiority is still preserved. Nanna Furnaveese continues to address by arzee.

It appears then that the use of Ma-be-Doulut by the Peshwa to Lord Cornwallis is a very improper arrogation, as it is not even used by Nizam Ally Khan, whose titular superiority is not, from what I can collect, disputed by the Peshwa. [I never] heard that this Court assumes any new dignity from the title of Vackeel-al-Mutluck, and our whole political intercourse is confined to the character of Peshwa, in which I confess myself at a loss to discover any grounds for his assuming a superiority in rank to the Governor General, tho' I perceive it is admitted in his Lordship's use of the term "Mushfuck Muklisan" which you will perceive is rather a greater concession of superiority than that granted by this Court to the Nazim

I was also surprized to find from your letter that the complimentary title of Bahaudui is omitted in the letters from the Peshwa and Nanna

to the Governor General, and more so to learn that it should have been introduced since Mr. Hastings' time. Such an innovation seems to have merited like all the other deficiencies in respect immediate notice, but as a support of our ancient dignity cannot be resumed too soon, I will, if his Lordship thinks proper, signify to this Court the improprieties that have crept into the Peshwa's correspondence on one hand in the introduction of "Ma-be-Doulut" and on the other in the omission of the term "Bhadur", when if proper notice is not taken and the points rectified, the only remedy that occurs to me is to adopt exactly the same style as the Peshwa uses

No. 88—Malet in frequent discussions gathers the political ambitions of the Poona Court and communicates them to the Governor General with suggestions for thwarting them

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K. G.

*Poona, 8th January 1790*

In addition to my public address of this date I shall, in pursuance of the mode adopted in my address of the 6th November (of transmitting in the form of a private address matter which tho' of public nature and in my opinion highly requisite for your Lordship's information is still in embryo), trouble you with some parts of B P's conversation at our last meeting of the 31st, which may be looked on as a continuation of what I had the honour to communicate in my private letter of the 6th November

After discussing the points mentioned in my public address of this date, B Pt proceeded with an appearance of solicitude equal to its importance to his old topic of sending an embassy to England for the following purposes (in which your Lordship will perceive a trifling difference from those of 6th November), (1) of procuring the junction of the Co. and the aid of its troops in a general plan for the settlement of all India and of reducing it to the power of the Marrattas in the Peshwa's person; (2) in default of success in this proposal in its whole extent to procure a stipulation to furnish this Court a body of troops in like manner as that lately engaged to Nizan Ally Khan; (3) of procuring from the Co. payment of the Choute of the Carnatic; that however, it was an object of great importance with the Minister in pursuit of these objects to be favoured with my advice and your Lordship's approval. B Pt pausing here gave me room, after some general remarks on the difficulty of giving any opinion on affairs of so great magnitude, to observe that one palpable inconsistency was evident in commencing a negotiation for our assistance by discovering its unreasonable lust of power in the attempt to saddle the state by whose assistance all its great desings were to be executed, with a tribute. From the conversation that ensued I collected that this proposal was introduced merely as the ground work of a favour in relinquishing it and thereby modestly meant to operate as part of the reward of our complance with either of the other points

which I endeavoured so to treat as without commitment to draw B. Pt. into what I thought a discovery that universal conquest in Hindostan is absolutely the systematic object of this Court and that it imputes disappointment hitherto in its accomplishment to the defeat of Sadobah by Ahmedsha Abdallee at Panniput, which defeat is attributed to the arrogant carriage of that Bramin Chief, by which he had disgusted all the great Marratta Chieftains that were acting with him. I thought likewise that I could perceive that another part of the plan of this Court in the pursuit of our assistance is founded in another great systematic object, that of reducing the great Marratta and other feudatories of the empire from their present state of almost optional obedience to a more rigid subordination to the executive power of the Peshwa and the Bramins, an object that is, I presume, greatly strengthened by the vast personal influence that would accrue to Nanna the present Minister in the accomplishment of a measure of such infinite and inconceivable benefit to the domestic strength and foreign views of this Court, the necessity of which is probably more forcibly felt by the present embarrassments springing from the dissensions of the great Chieftains in the north and the jealousy of that ascendancy which Sindia may gain in the course of them from the credit of his connexion with us.

I further collected that the great work of subduing and resettling the empire of Hindostan was to be effected in the King's name and that the Peshwa was to act nominally as now in the character of the delegate of the Raja of Sattarra but with absolute power on the part of the King for the support of whose dignity a suitable establishment was to be made under the conduct of any person that this Court might wish to appoint.

It appeared to me from this conversation that the Minister's intention of going to Benares may be looked on only as the alternative of failing in the prosecution of this great plan or any other that he may be prosecuting for the support of his power, though B. Pt. reminded me of what passed on the subject of his wishes on the 6th November relative to procuring special Purwannas from Calcutta or Europe for visiting that city. In the course of these discussions I confidentially asked B. Pt. in the hope of producing a good effect by touching the chord of the Minister's authority, how it happened while the Minister was so much interested personally and officially to cultivate most industriously our good will, that such extraordinary delays happened in the negotiation of the flimsy points of right and I begged to know whether those delays arose from any obstacles the Minister met with in the opposition of other members of Govert. (which I believe is sometimes the case) to do us justice. After a little hesitation he replied, that there were not wanting those who from motives probably interested or prejudiced, represented our claims as founded more in power than right; and that though such language would not be hearkened to were it urged against weak suitors, yet had it a tendency to awaken jealousy of and perhaps resistance to the claims of so powerful

an applicant as the Company. From this answer it seems that B Pt had less repugnance to call in question the good sense than the authority of the Minister, whence I may promise myself that the desire of conveying to me an idea of his omnipotence will sometimes in future operate in my favour on the same principles that B Pt has hitherto assigned him for the contrary.

Behro Pundit in his outline of the general plan for the arrangement of the Mogul Empire had the moderation to assign to the Company and their allies undisputed possession of their several tenures nor was Nizam Ally Khan to be molested but Tippo's power was to be subverted and the northern boundary of the empire was to be regulated by its extent under Aurangzebe.

At length I concluded a very long conversation on these points by observing that the magnitude of the proposals required the most mature and serious deliberation even to form a superficial estimate of their consequences and a still more intense contemplation of those consequences in every possible point of view to venture an opinion or advice on points of so great importance in the intercourse of such mighty States as that of the Co and the Marattas, and on this plea I declined giving any. While B Pt, on the other hand, requested that till I should receive official authority from this State for the communication and till I could reduce my reflexions on the whole subject to some standard I would not transmit those parts of it that had transpired to your Lordship.

After a deliberate consideration of the above and a perusal of the conclusions drawn from the same subject in my address of the 6th November, nothing occurs to change not to add, so that I shall only in fewer words repeat my general opinion that if this Court can effect any part of the proposals it holds forth, infinite advantage will be gained to the State and the Administration, if not nothing will be lost by amusing us during the prosecution of its great designs in the north and the occasional embarrassments to which they may be exposed in those designs and their general ..., with confidential and conciliatory negotiations —The tenor of which in my humble opinion is somewhat explanatory of the late reception and extraordinary attention paid to the Prince Myrza Jooma\* and to which I believe may be attributed the hasty re-enthronement of the old King and nomination of Acher Sha as heir apparent by which measures Sindia traversed what to me appears to have been the project of this Court with its Princely Guest.

Begging your Lordship to keep in mind that what I have here taken the liberty to trouble you with, is rather to convey a general idea of the political views of this Court than to attract any particular share of present notice. I shall hasten to a conclusion of this troublesome letter with an assurance that I have the Honor to be with the highest respect.

✓ \* Mirza Mujaffar-Bakht son of Jawan-Bakht visited Poona in 1789 to ask the Peshwa's help in order to obtain the Crown of Delhi.



**No. 89**—This paper mentions the names of the persons composing the suite of the Poona Residency headed by Malet.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—MAJOR-GENERAL ABERCROMBY, GOVERNOR, BOMBAY.

*Poona, 16th January 1790.*

Dear Sir,

The long wished for and long expected period is at length arrived that gives me the pleasure of congratulating your accession to the Government of Bombay, an event that will, I trust, be as beneficial to our country as it is hon'ble to yourself

You will probably learn from General Medows that in discharging the duties of my office at this Court, the rights and honor of the Presidency of Bombay have ever engaged a very particular share of my concern and I have a pleasure that they shall continue to command my closest attention under your administration through which I shall esteem it an happiness to be honored with your confidential correspondence on any points that you may judge at all conducive to the public good

On my appointment to this station Government thought proper in composing my suite to indulge me with the selection of my friends, whose continuance with me has been assented to through the subsequent Governments As therefore this station is entirely out of the line of routine and as a single discordant string in so small a society so conspicuously held up to the observation of a foreign Court and nation, might, not to mention individual happiness, greatly affect the weight and dignity of my mission, permit me to hope that in a situation where my whole society is confined to my own little party you will have no objection to its still consisting of my friends, Messrs. Hiern, Ward and Cruso, amongst whom I deem it unnecessary to include Mr. Uhthoff, as he holds his appointment from Governor General by consent of the Government of Bombay Captain Surveyor Reynolds likewise was employed for some time under me but I no longer look on his actions as subordinate to my orders, his whole responsibility having long rested with the Bombay Government

In expectation of the event that has now taken place of your accession to the Government of Bombay I some time since took the liberty of requesting his Lordship the Governor General's instructions for my conduct, should you think my presence at Bombay at all requisite for giving you a general knowledge of his Lordship's political negotiation with this Court, and am in daily expectation of their arrival In the meantime permit me to assure you that both in person and by letter, I shall ever be happy to assure you of the respect with which I have etc.

No 90—Malet reports to the Governor General why he did not invite a visit from Nana. In justification of his conduct he draws fine distinctions between the relative positions of the two Courts.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K G, GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM

*Poona, 19th February 1790.*

My Lord,

It escaped me to mention in my last address of the 12th instant that previous to the Peshwa's visit of the 10th I went through the ceremony of personally inviting him on the 9th

It having been settled that I was to receive distinct visits from Nanna Furnaveese and Hurry Punt after that of the Peshwa, I intimated on the 15th instant to the former that I was ready to receive him whenever he thought proper to favor me with his company but was much surprized to receive in answer that it was expected I should wait on him with my own invitation in the same manner that I had on the Peshwa

I in reply sent word that tho' personally averse to all punctilious and trifling points of ceremonious etiquette, yet I could not, at a Court where I duly experienced so tenacious an attachment to these circumstances, forget the official incumbency of supporting the representative character of a great Empire, that the compliment which I had paid the Peshwa of inviting him in person appeared to me exclusively due to his superior rank and that the Minister's expectation of the same mark of respect on the present occasion tended to derogate from its merit and seemed the more extraordinary from its never having been agitated in the visits which I had formerly received from him or any of the great officers of the Empire with whom I had exchanged those marks of civility; that on the late entertainments given me by the Minister and Hurry Punt their invitations had been conveyed to me by officers of their household and that I hoped the Minister would have more regard for the character of the representative of a State in friendship with his master than to think of levelling him with such personages, that anxious as I was to convince the Minister of my regard for his dignity, I was ready to depute on this occasion my assistant Uthhoff, a servant of the Company respectable from his character and station, and concluded my message with a hope that the Minister by persevering in so unprecedented an expectation, would not reduce me to the disagreeable alternative of foregoing the pleasure of his company or of purchasing it by an unbecoming sacrifice.

To this message I received a reply couched in general terms but amounting in civil language to a declaration of the Minister's resolution to abide by his expectation and to waive the visit if not complied with.

So tenacious an adherence to what I thought an unreasonable punctilio added to the general observance of a similar spirit of encroachment in this Court so strongly marked in its late insidious attempt to procure from me the derogatory offering of a Nuzzur and to the recollection of the

representation lately received from Mr Cherry of an assumed style of superiority in the Peshwa's letters to your Lordship, induced me without delay to assert the dignity of my character and to acquaint the Minister that though with reluctance yet without hesitation I sacrificed the honor of his company to the dread of forfeiting his esteem by an improper pursuit of it.

From the list of the articles presented to the Peshwa on his visiting me now sent to Mr Secy. Hay, Your Lordship will perceive that I have waived the presentment of a Nuzzur The amount was confined within as narrow limits as I thought compatible with your Lordship's instructions of the 9th of October The remaining figures and armour sent by the Court of Directors shall be distributed to the Minister and to such other officers of this Government as he chooses to participate them with

**No. 91**—List of presents made by Malet to the Peshwa when he visited the Residency

*Poona, 10th February 1790.*

*Account of presents made to Mudhowarao Norain Peshwa on his visiting C W Malet at Poona the 10th February 1790 (enclosed in the letter to the Secy at Fort William)*

1 Elephant	6,500	0	0
1 Arab Horse with Furniture	1,800	0	0

*Jewels*

A Pair of Pearl Bracelets	3,500	0	0
A Pair of Bajobunds	345	0	0
1 Sirpech	540	2	0
1 Kulgy	500	0	0
1 Gold Timekeeper watch with chain	1,200	0	0
	<hr/>	6,085	0 0

*Cloths viz*

1 Pair Shawls Jamavars	270	0	0
1 Pair Shawl	214	0	0
1 Pair Shawl	100	0	0
1 Pair Kincobs	196	0	0
4 Pcs white cloth	81	2	0
1 Turband	50	0	0
2 Duppattas	125	0	0
1 Piece velvet, price not yet known but conjecture about	300	0	0
	<hr/>	1,336	2 0
21 Pcs of Mus100		207	1 50
2 Glass Lustres		650	0 0
Ready Cash		500	0 0
		<hr/>	17,079 1 50

Deduct the amount of the above pearl bracelets being presented to me on a former occasion by the minister

.. 3,500 0 0

13,579 1 50

Errors excepted.

**No. 92**—The Governor General explains to Kennaway why no special article of guarantee for the Nizam was needed in the proposed treaty of alliance.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—CAPTAIN JOHN KENNAWAY, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

*Fort William, 29th April 1790.*

Sir,

I have received your letters dated the 9th and 10th instant and very much approve of your communicating the substance of all conferences on points of importance that may pass between you and the Nizam or his Ministers, even when the objects of them have neither been explicit propositions on final decisions as it may on several occasions tend to convey to me some useful information respecting His Highness's present disposition and designs, and to give me a fuller view of some of the subjects which may be under discussion between the two Governments

You are so well acquainted with the objects which we wish to attain by the present negotiation and I am so perfectly convinced of your anxious desire to do everything in your power to promote the accomplishment of them, that I think it unnecessary to add much to what I have already said upon the subject.

I need hardly state to you that tho' it would be desirable to obtain terms of precise equality in our treaty with the Marrattas, their hearty and early co-operation with us in the present War is of the utmost importance to our interests. I would even designedly give them some advantage rather than retard the commencement of the operations of their forces.

You will however observe by the enclosed copy of my last letter to Mr Malet that I did not put the same construction that His Highness did upon the meaning of the article of our treaty with the Poona Government, though for the reasons that I have mentioned, I was induced to consent that the other more favourable construction to them should be admitted, if they should insist upon it

I am at the same time not without hopes that the point will now be brought to a liberal and satisfactory explanation between them and His Highness, to which I wish that you should do everything in your power to contribute by representing in the most friendly manner that it would be unwise if not ridiculous in the confederates to come to premature differences amongst themselves about the division of the spoils that are not yet gained and that the main and indeed only object at present should be to act with the most cordial and vigorous concert in carrying on our military operations, until we shall obtain so decided a superiority in the war as to be able to force our common enemy to submit to the terms of peace that we may think proper to impose upon him.

Under all circumstances that may happen either of partial or complete success the other confederates may rely upon the most liberal attention being paid to their interests by this Government, and in the meantime it will be a very important part of Mr. Malet's duty and yours to prevent as much as may be possible all jealousies and misunderstandings between the Durbars where you respectively reside

My letter to you dated the 12th instant will have enabled you to point out in the most clear and I trust satisfactory manner to the Nizam and his Ministers, that partially disposed as I am to pay the greatest regard to their wishes and to the future credit and security of His Highness's Government and in consequence of the instructions contained in that letter, you will have explained to them the reasons which in my opinion rendered it improper to make any declaration in writing which contained suppositions that might give just cause of offence to the Peshwah's Ministers. Should the subject be again pressed upon you, it will be proper for you to say that I have the firmest reliance upon the friendly disposition of the Marrattas both towards the Company and the Nizam, but I have no objection to your giving His Highness the most explicit assurances that if contrary to all probability the Marrattas or any other power whatever should attempt to injure or disturb his dominions whilst he is engaged in conjunction with us in the present war, I shall look upon the Company as bound by the strictest ties of honor to employ their whole force if necessary to obtain for him most ample reparation.

**No. 93**—Cornwallis writes to Palmer, British Resident with Sindia, and administers a strong threat to Holkar and indirectly to Sindia if they dared to be friendly towards Tipu. The letter contains an important diplomatic move

FROM—EARL CORNWALLIS,

TO—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER, RESIDENT WITH MHAJEE SINDIA.

*Fort William, 20th May 1790.*

I have seen your letter to Mr Cherry in which you mention that Tookajee Holkar had at Tippoo Saib's request recommended to the Peshwa's Ministers not to join the English in the present war against that Prince

I do not wish at this juncture to take any steps which would occasion a direct breach with Tookajee Holkar, but I cannot allow his interference in favor of a Prince who has forced us into hostilities by a most flagrant violation of the late treaty of peace to pass unnoticed.

I therefore desire that you will take the earliest opportunity of informing Tookajee Holkar either personally or by letter as you may find it most convenient, that as Tippoo has committed a breach of the late treaty of peace with the English by attacking their ally the Rajah of Travancore without any kind of provocation, and as the other Chiefs of his Nation

have resolved to avail themselves of this favourable occasion to join in a Confederacy with the Hon'ble Company, and to exact reparation for the many losses and injuries that the Mahrattas have sustained from Tippoo or from his father, it would have been with no small degree of surprize that I should have learned that he could hold any sort of correspondence with a Prince who is the avowed enemy of the Mahrattas, as well as of the English Nation, but that a very particular impression has been made upon my mind by discovering that after the professions which he has made of friendship for this Government he has thought proper to interfere so far as to endeavour to dissuade the Peshwa's Ministers from performing their engagements with us, and from prosecuting a war which promises to produce so many advantages to the Mahratta State.

You may likewise add that he cannot be ignorant of the friendly and honourable manner in which I have conducted myself towards the Mahrattas in the contests which have long subsisted between them and some of the Powers of Hindostan, and that having every reason to be convinced of Madajee Sindea's readiness to make a proper return for our friendship, by rendering the Company every substantial service and good office that may be in his power, I shall always be happy to give him convincing proofs of my regard and esteem for him, but that it will be very natural for me, as indeed it will be my indispensible duty, to entertain very different sentiments, and to conduct myself in all public transactions in a very different manner towards a chief who appears to be partial to the English Company's declared and inveterate enemy, whenever any question shall arise in which his personal interest may be particularly concerned or whenever he shall have occasion to make any propositions to this Government.

There is no necessity for your communicating the whole of this letter to Sindia, but I wish you to inform him in general terms that I have expressed great dissatisfaction to Tookajee Holkar for his unfriendly behaviour in taking upon him to interfere with the Poona Government in favour of a determined enemy with whom the Company is actually at open war.

**No. 94**—Malet communicates to Governor General the Peshwa's desire for diminution of the pilgrim taxes at Allahabad and other holy places.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K. G., GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM

*Poona, 15th August 1790.*

On my communicating to B Pt. the receipt of your Lordship's letters for the Peshwa and Minister on the subject of the diminution of the customs at Allahabad on Hindoo pilgrims, he seemed very desirous of

introducing them with the weight of an obligation on this Court and for that purpose was desirous of ascertaining the cause that had influenced your Lordship to that measure particularly whether from any recommendation from Sindia or any other quarter. Perceiving the jealous tendency of this enquiry I observed that tho' I was not acquainted with the precise motives of your Lordship's conduct on this occasion, yet I certainly would pronounce that it originated in a spirit of universal benevolence encouraged by a regard for this Hindoo Court which merited its warmest acknowledgments, nor should the merit of the act be depreciated even had it been done at the instance of Mhadjee Sindia or any other member of this State, since any attention of your Lordship to them was a natural consequence of your close friendly connexion with this Court. In answer to this B Pt has desired me to defer presentment of the letters till he has had an opportunity of speaking to me on the subject to which I have assented.

I have the honour to be, etc ,

Poona, 15 Aug 1790.

CHARLES MALET.

**No. 95**—Malet communicates to Lord Cornwallis a theft committed in his bungalow

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K. G., GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

*Poona, 21st September 1790.*

Nothing material has occurred here since my last address of the 18 except that it has been notified to me by the Minister that the Peshwa's Tannas have been established in many more of the enemy's places

I have this day received intelligence from General Abercromby that circumstances having caused a change in his design of invading Tippoo's territories from the Mallabar Coast, he shall have it more in his power to reinforce the detachment already acting with the army of this state if the requisition should be deemed expedient. I shall accordingly repeat my former offers to the Minister on this head in such a manner as may be most likely to carry an appearance of attention and cordiality.

On the night of the 18 some thieves found means to enter my bungalow and carry off a treasure chest containing money and jewells to a considerable amount. My endeavours to discover them have hitherto been unsuccessful and I am concerned to acquaint your Lordship that amongst the articles

lost on this occasion was the diamond ring presented to me by Hurry Pundit and carried by me to the Company's credit and the Marratta and Persian copy of the Peshwa's treaty which I reserved, on forwarding the original to your Lordship, the safe arrival of which I shall be very happy to learn and to be favored with a copy of it as soon as convenient by sea as the season now approaches for the sailing of ships from the Ganges to B'bay

" Intelligence has reached me but for the credibility of which I cannot vouch that the Prince Myrza Joorna will proceed from hence to Mhadjee Sindia after the rains "

**No. 96**—Cornwallis informs the Resident that he was not resigning his post and that the Spanish War against England meant no anxiety for the Indian Government.

FROM—EARL CORNWALLIS,

TO—C. W. MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 4th October 1790.*

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 4th ultimo, but as no new circumstances have occurred, I shall only in reply take notice of the question that was put to you by the Minister relative to my leaving this country, and in order to prevent any doubts which the expectation of a change of Governor General might occasion in his mind, of our adhering steadily to our engagements, and prosecuting the war with vigor, I must desire you to inform him, that in consequence of my having notified my intention to return to Europe in the course of the ensuing winter, General Medows was appointed to succeed me whenever I should resign this Government. But conceiving it possible that my resignation of this Government in the present situation of public affairs might prove prejudicial to the general interests of the Confederacy, I had determined not to leave India until the war against Tippoo should be brought to a conclusion.

I have great hopes that when the Spaniards find from the spirited conduct of our Government that we are determined neither to submit to the insult offered to our flag, nor to a claim of exclusive navigation to an extent almost without bounds, they will listen to the voice of reason and moderation and not rashly proceed to a rupture which, however inconvenient it may be to us, would probably in its consequences prove much more ruinous to themselves. If however the event should prove otherwise, I wish you to take an early opportunity after you receive certain accounts of the war of explaining to the Minister the relative



situation of Spain in regard to our country, and the impossibility that a war with that power should in the smallest degree affect our possessions in India.

Since the dispatch of my last letter in which I expressed my wishes to you that, if General Medows did not require all the troops which could with safety be spared from Bombay for the purpose of co-operation with his army, some more battalions should be sent to join the Mahrattas at our own expense, provided the Poonah Government was willing to accept and seemed disposed to make a proper use of such a reinforcement, I have learnt from the General that he saw no likelihood of his wanting much more assistance from Bombay, and that he was as desirous as myself to strengthen the Mahratta army.

You know the disposition of the Minister and the Durbar so well that I leave the making of the proposal at all or the manner of doing it entirely to your discretion, and shall only add that if by these or any other means the Mahratta army can be brought to act with tolerable spirit for the next two or three months, unless some extraordinary misfortune should happen to us, I think that without being too sanguine we might expect that Tippoo must be utterly undone.

It has from the commencement of hostilities been a matter of the utmost moment to us to bring the war to a speedy termination, but my anxiety in that particular is greatly increased since I received the last advices from England, for altho' what I desired you to communicate to the Minister is very true, that the Spaniards cannot disturb our Indian territories, it by no means follows that our Indian force if not otherwise occupied might not be very advantageously employed against some of their possessions.

**No. 97**—Malet reports how the Peshwa's Government was occupied in dealing with the dissensions between the Maratha Chiefs (Sindia and Holkar) in the north.

FROM—THE RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 19th November 1790.*

The dissensions between the Maratha Chiefs in Hindustan engage a large share of the attention of this Government and must I presume be the source of much domestic uneasiness happily perhaps for their neighbours.

**No. 98**—The Bombay Government inform Malet how a model of a ship of war can be constructed as a toy for the Peshwa at Poona.

FROM—WILLIAM PAGE, SECRETARY, BOMBAY GOVERNMENT,  
TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Bombay Castle, 17th December 1790*

I have the Honourable Board's Commands to acquaint you that having consulted with the master builders respecting the practicability of constructing the model in request by the Peshwa, they had the satisfaction to find that it could be executed here in a very complete manner and in three or four months' time but as the expense of it is estimated at the considerable sum of three thousand rupees they thought it necessary that you should be apprized of that circumstance in order that you may favour them with your opinion whether you would recommend that the Peshwa should be gratified in this instance at such a price

**No. 99**—Malet requests the Secretary to obtain orders for the execution of a model of the largest ship of war in the British Navy required for the Peshwa

FROM—C. W. MALET,  
TO—EDWARD HAY, SECRETARY, FORT WILLIAM.

*Poona, 20th December 1790.*

In a late letter to the Right Honourable Governor General in Council I mentioned an application made to me by the Peshwa for a model of the largest ship of war in the British Navy not less than 9 feet in length and executed in such a manner as to convey a perfect idea of all her parts, guns, rigging, etc., etc. In reply to my communication of this request to the Government of Bombay I have this day received a letter, of which I enclose copy, and as I observe by the public papers that there is a very ingenious ship builder at Calcutta, whose work is performed much cheaper than at Bombay, I have to request you will collect the sentiments of the Board on having the model executed there or at Bombay. I need not observe that to give value to the work it should be executed in the neatest and most masterly style.

**No. 100**—Malet describes to the Governor General an important interview he had with Nana on the subject of the Peshwa not going into Camp with the Maratha armies against Tipu. The real cause, Nana urged, was his own secret illness which he said was most troublesome but for which he declined treatment from Findley. It is repeatedly alluded to in several letters which are not all printed here.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,  
TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 24th December 1790.*

After addressing Your Lordship on the 20th I received a visit from Behro Punt to convey from the Peshwa and Minister their concern at

Captain Little's being wounded accompanied with the strongest expression of their high sense of his gallantry and good conduct on all occasions, which I have done myself the pleasure of communicating to that officer with your Lordship's reply of the 25th ultimo to my application relative to his allowances while in command of the detachment. Behro Punt also assured me that the cause of the retreat after so completely succeeding in the attack of Peynt or suburbs, must be attributed to the unfortunate circumstance of Janardhan Rao, Purasram's nephew, being killed who had the chief command of the Marratta Troops that entered the town in the capture of which upward of 300 of the enemy were killed.

On the 22nd instant I visited the Minister at which he repeated his expressions of concern on Captain Little's fortune and of his entire satisfaction at that officer's whole conduct.

After these communications the Minister ordered the room to be cleared and then entered on a recapitulation of his personal indisposition lately assigned to me as the cause that prevented his leading the Peshwa into the field, on the credit due to which he strongly insisted, as he had no necessity to urge it nor would he, had he not the fullest confidence in my friendship, and the greatest solicitude of conveying to my mind such a thorough conviction of the reality of not being able to adopt the measure at present as should enable me with confidence to assure your Lordship of his want of power, not of will, to follow your Lordship's example, which he repeatedly and strongly assured me he was desirous of doing and would do at the period he had mentioned if the improvement of his health permitted. He declared that he had not communicated this reason to the Nabob in reply to the importunate instances he received from that quarter and expected that in making it known to me I should not communicate it to your Lordship but only use it to convey to your Lordship in general terms my own conviction of the impracticability of the measure at present. To this language I replied with general expressions of concern at his indisposition, and from my great desire to remove so great a personal inconvenience and so great an evil to this State and to the confederacy, I proposed the medical assistance of Mr Surgeon Findley on whose skill and tenderness I had the most entire reliance, he expressed much obligation for my concern and my offer but urged the observance of his secret and the difference of Indian and European manners and medical practice to waive accepting it. On my controverting these objections and again urging his merely taking Surgeon Findley's opinion he observed that he had already received benefit from the medicines he now took, but that he would consider my proposal and give me an answer.

The Minister's object in this part of our Conference seemed to be (and he pressed it with great solicitude) to convey to me a persuasion of the sincerity of his intention to lead the Peshwa into the field and to draw from me an admission of the reasonableness of the causes that

prevented it, which I as studiously avoided with general expressions of solicitude for his recovery and a firm hope that thereby he would be enabled to put the Peshwa on a footing with the other principals of the Confederacy.

**No. 101**—Kennaway reports to Malet from Pangal the death of Tegh-Jung, a commanding officer of the Nizam.

FROM—JOHN KENNAWAY,

TO—C. W. MALET.

*Pangal, 1st January 1791.*

Shums-UI-Umrah more generally known by the title of Teagh Jung expired this morning. Everything is yet quiet which is a more favourable circumstance than could have been expected. The nephew and followers of the deceased having threatened if the disorder proved fatal, that the Minister's life should answer for it, the latter is upon his guard not having left his house, the avenues to which are secured by trusty officers for some days.

**No. 102**—In this important letter Malet relates to the Governor General his conversation with the Minister, discusses the state of the war, suggests the best mode of conducting negotiations with Tipu when he sues for peace and offers advice for preserving the harmony of the confederacy.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 7th January 1791*

In my address of the 3rd I communicated to your Lordship the delivery of your letter announcing your arrival at Madras to the Peshwa.

On the 4th in the morning I received a letter from Capt M Gaulay Genl Medows's Persian Interpreter enclosing copies of a second letter from Mahomed Sadick Tippu's Dewan and Capt and M's second answer by the General's order, which arrived most apropos for regulating my communication to the Minister at a visit that I paid him in the evening, the business of which I commenced with a detail of the brilliant and important successes of General Abercromby and Col. Hartley on the Mallabar Coast, by which I trust that whole important tract of sea-coast will be liberated from the enemy's yoke, an object of the greatest consequences in cutting him off in future from European assistance and connection, should the advantages of the war be so divided as to enable us to re-establish the original Mallabar Princes on the abolition of his usurpations.

Having finished this subject I presented your Lordship's letter intimating your arrival at Madras and took advantage of the reference contained in it to my verbal communications to acquaint the Minister that your Lordship entertained a firm hope that the example of your great exertions would be followed by his leading the Peshwa into the field, to which he replied with his former declarations of a desire to comply with your Lordship's wishes on this point and with a repetition of the causes that prevented the gratification, and on my desiring that he would favour me with the substance of an answer to this specific signification of your Lordship's wishes, he acquainted me to repeat the reasons I had already assigned in prevention of the measure and the existence of the one possibility of the preventive being removed,—To promote which I reminded him of my offer of Mr Surgeon's Findlay's assistance and advice, to which he replied that as he had found some benefit from the medicine he now took, he would not at present trouble that gentleman

I took advantage of the opening given me in the course of urging the Minister to lead the Peshwa into the field to introduce the communication of the overtures lately made by Tippoo to Gen Medows with an observation that as such advances had been primarily made to that General and secondarily to this Court and now again repeated to the General, the enemy's distress and solicitude to extricate himself from his present embarrassments, were obvious and that the great objects of negotiation when it should be deemed proper to enter on it, would of course be greatly forwarded and facilitated by the Peshwa and Nizam-Ally-Khan accompanied by Capt K. and myself being so near as to prevent the delays of constant reference. Tho' the Minister admitted that the measure would be promotive of the points I mentioned, yet he seemed to think the delay of correspondence of very little consequence, observing that such inconveniences were inseparable from the connexions of distant states. I endeavoured to correct the tendency of his language by instancing the eligibility and practicability of avoiding such delay on the present occasion by the mode I had proposed, for which very purpose Your Lordship had quitted Calcutta and taken the field in person, subjecting yourself to all the difficulties and dangers of actual war to insure a speedy peace, and so great energy and exertion in the common cause would be ill repaid by the Peshwa's continuing to withhold himself from the inferior trouble of advancing to the enemy's frontier to countenance the prosecution of the war and accelerate the negotiations for a peace. To this the Minister repeated the possible contingency of the Peshwa taking the field. Hitherto the Minister had discovered neither surprise nor curiosity about the overtures that I told him had been made to Gen. M., whether diverted from it by the new instances with which I accompanied the communication for the Peshwa's taking the field or rendered indifferent by previous intelligence of what had passed between Tippoo and the General I know not. After endeavouring to convert the

enemy's evident solicitude to enter into negotiations into a new incentive to the Minister's taking the field, I proceeded to request that he would favor me with his sentiments for your Lordship's information in treating the reference made of the affair to Your Lordship by Genl M. He said that Genl M had already given an answer and it would be time enough to think of another on a repetition of T's application to Your Lordship I replied that the substance of the overture was referred to, not answered and now rested on your Lordship for whose guidance, in like manner as he had lately requested my opinion, I begged his, either as to giving an answer to the advances already made or in the event of their being renewed He then had recourse to ignorance of the terms of the overture which I explained as similar to those made to this State He said that a similar answer might be returned by your Lordship I observed that in the first communication of Tippoo's proposal to this Court, he, the Minister, had not applied either for your Lordship's or my opinion ; that on his subsequent application for mine, I had given it by reference to your Lordship with a desire that it might be blended with that of Niz A K. who as a principal had given his own answer , and that I now applied to him as a principal to favor me with sentiments for your Lordship's guidance To this he replied that it would be time enough to give his sentiments when Tippoo had signified his readiness to treat on terms agreeable to the three contracting powers, and this was the utmost progress that I could effect in my endeavours to lead him into a fuller discovery of his sentiments, not inconsiderable, perhaps, when his usual extreme reserve and cautious avoidance of all discussion is adverted to, on points that he has not had previous leisure to weigh with deliberation, since, by what has passed, I think, a latitude is given to Your Lordship whenever a good opportunity may present of signifying to Tippoo that on his evincing his sincere desire of peace by an assurance of a readiness to treat on terms agreeable to the contracting powers, their sentiments shall be collected and a definitive answer given to his applications, tho' I confess that I see no prospect of much benefit from such negotiatory advances, till the arduous task of convincing both our allies and the enemy of our superiority has been accomplished , and here, my Lord, permit me to suggest your furnishing me with a particular order to communicate to this Court that advances had been made to Genl. M. previous to your joining the army, to which the Genl had replied by reference to you and regarding which you shall regulate yourself entirely by treaty and the good of the confederacy, as such an assurance may be requisite to counteract any insidious use that the enemy may attempt or have attempted to make of what has passed Permit me also to suggest to Your Lordship the inexpediency of noticing as from yourself any advances from secondaries on the part of the enemy, as I can venture to assure you that such a mode always originates in an insidious or an arrogant design as is most evidently

demonstrated in the first letter which some of Tippoo's Ministers had the presumption to write to Genl M, with the palpable falsehood on the face of it of its being unknown to their Master, tho' I hope that insidious and artful attempt has been done away by the answer of the General's Persian Interpreter to the 2nd letter recd. from the enemy's Minister. But should your Lordship in bar of any advantage that may be taken of this circumstance by this Court, or should you from a prospect of the embarrassments with which it will always have it in its power to traverse all negotiations that are not agreeable to it, think proper in a style of candor and cordiality to propose when negotiations may be resolved on either that each of the allies should send plenipotentiaries to meet others deputed by Tippoo to your Lordship, or that the conduct of the negotiations should be devolved on a congress composed of the Peshwa and Nabob in person, attended by your plenipotentiaries or on delegates from those Courts jointly with your Lordship at any convenient place to be appointed by mutual consent. Such a choice of proposals seems, I think, as free as can be expected from objection and ought at least to eradicate every seed of distrust of our views from the minds of the other contracting powers by the clear demonstration it would convey of your Lordship's moderation, equity, and conciliation and at least remove all shadow of pretence for the introduction of separate interests and underhand intrigues or furnish your Lordship with so clear a discovery of the disposition of the allies to enable you to take the most reasonable means of counteracting them should they appear suspicious.

The Minister as I have above mentioned neither showing much curiosity nor entering into any particular enquiry of what had passed between General Medows and Tippoo, I felt no incumbency to give him more than the outlines of the overture and the General's reply contained in the latter part of his second letter, without mentioning by whom the letters were written on the part of T. or how many passed, and should any further questions be put to me on the subject now or thereafter I shall reply that this is all that has been communicated to me and contains in fact all that could be material for my knowledge or the knowledge of this Court

Having in the morning of the day of this visit recd. intimation from B. Pant that the intention of sending Gungadur Rasta with H. Pant had been dropt, I expressed to the Minister my satisfaction thereon, but at the same time with the utmost delicacy and with a proviso of it being entirely confidential, questioned him relative to the very recent departure from Poona of the person through whose agency all Tippoo's business with the Rasta family is conducted, which has been reported to me with certain circumstances that gave reason to apprehend that his journey was connected with the prosecution of those intrigues in which that family has lately been so unproperly engaged. After allowing the departure of the person in question the Minister warmly disclaimed any sinister object, for that he had gone by his permission to visit his sick wife somewhere in the

neighbourhood of Tuljapore, admitting at the same time that venal and intriguing men could not at all times be followed in their dark pursuits, but said he, "If my repeated assurances of a firm resolution not to swerve from the engagements that have been contracted are still insufficient what further satisfaction can I give you?" I replied that by leading the Peshwa into the field he would give more complete satisfaction. To evade giving it, however, he had recourse to the old contingency of his health but solemnly declared that no step relative to the alliance should be taken by this court without my knowledge and advice. Notwithstanding which and notwithstanding my wish to place confidence in the Minister's repeated assurances, I cannot relinquish my suspicion that an underhand correspondence has been continued with the enemy through the channel of the Rasta family from the commencement of the war, the object of which (hitherto) I conceive to be to secure exclusive advantages for this State and Nizam Ally Khan, in recompense of their comparative forbearance during the war and good offices in the conclusion of a peace and thereby to draw the negotiations into their own hands, rather than that of making separate accommodations, since the dread of the consequence of either your Lordship's or Tippoo's gaining an ascendancy over each other must, I presume, operate very effectually in prevention of their deserting the alliance.

In the prosecution of this line of conduct I am of opinion that some terms were offered to Tipoo immediately on receipt of his first proposals to this Court acknowledged to be received the 21st October which, not proving admissible, induced his making new overtures to Genl Medows about 12th December, after making such exertions as he thought might facilitate their admission. While this Court, disappointed and dissatisfied with his rejection of its terms, pretended its late solicitude to collect the sentiments of confederates, with which I think it very likely that new exhortations, still under the convenient cloak of Rasta as described in my address of the 11th, have been transmitted to him to submit to this Court's terms for itself and the Nabob and to their management of the negotiations for the termination of the war.

But notwithstanding my firm persuasion of the existence of these intrigues and notwithstanding the comparative want of exertion of this Government and the Nabob in the prosecution of the war, so clear is my conviction of the importance of their alliance and so strong is my persuasion that the preservation of the harmony of the confederacy is necessary to the accomplishment of a permanent peace by negotiation, that I think every forbearance consistent with our national honor and essential interests, should be exercised toward our allies in pursuit of those objects, and that such is your Lordship's resolution, would, I humbly presume, be fully manifested to them by the proposal of the three alternatives mentioned in the former part of this address for the mode of conducting the pacification.



I have this morning had the pleasure to receive from Captain K copy of your Lordship's letter to him of the 20 ulto. by which I am happy to learn that my foregoing ideas relative to the preservation of the harmony of the confederacy are perfectly sanctioned by your Lordship's instructions. And as your Lordship's projected invasion of the enemy's country toward Bangalore is in the exact direction that will best facilitate a junction with the proposed joint army of the allies, they will, I hope, soon have an opportunity of putting in execution that recent profession of cordial and co-operative exertion. I shall not however immediately communicate your Lordship's plan but use the latitude of discovering it by degrees to convey to them a persuasion that it has been adopted from your Lordship's resolution to act in concert with them, thereby laying them under a greater obligation to prosecute with vigor the accomplishment of their own proposal in urging which I am incessant and am assured that Hurrypunt will move from his present ground (about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles hence) in a day or two to proceed without halting to the Kistna.

I have the Honor to enclose a copy of my last intelligence from Darwar by which your Lordship will observe that the reinforcement had not reached that place to the 30th ulto. I have this day received 65,000 Rs from the Durbar on account of Captain Little's detachment. The Minister has acquainted me that Roydroog lately captured by Bhow's parties is a place of strength and capital of a Zameendaree. I was exceedingly rejoiced to learn from Captain K the capture of Curpa and when to the progress of our allies and the late brilliant success of Colonel Hartley and General Abercromby on the Mallabar coast is added the near prospect of the impending invasion of Hurry Punt's and the Nizam's joint force and that by the fall of the important fortress of Darwar, Pursaram Bhou will be set at leisure to prosecute his operations with new vigor and activity, I think it reasonable to conclude that the embarrassment of the enemy must be extreme.

**No. 103**—Malet in this letter informs the G. G. of the proper mode of address towards the Peshwa, his Ministers and other members of his Court

FROM—C. W MALET,

TO—G. T CHERRY PERSIAN INTERPRETER TO THE GOVERNOR  
GENERAL

*Poona, 24th January 1791.*

I was favored with your letters of the 7th and the 22nd Inst. I think that his Lordship cannot err much by applying to Hurry Punt and Pursaram Bhaou the same style and title that he uses to Ballajce Pundit, tho' they could not complain of his Lordship's making their Alkab somewhat inferior to his ; at all events the address to those two chieftains should be the same.

In the same manner that the Minister of this State Ballajee Punt is usually called Nanna, so is Hurry Punt called Tantea and Pursaram Punt Bhaou. At present I know of no other chieftains employed by this Government with whom there can be any likelihood of his Lordship's corresponding and the only person in quality of a Vackeel that I see any prospect of his Lordship's having any intercourse with is Buchajee Ragonath, the brother of Behro Punt, through whom all my business is conducted at this Court. His Lordship is already acquainted that he was appointed with my approval to reside with General Medows. On his Lordship's proceeding to Madras I was consulted relative to this Minister's future conduct and advised that as he was sent to attend the army agreeable to treaty, he should, of course, if his Lordship took the field in person, be furnished with new letters of credence, an introduction to him and that to the complimentary present (which this Court insisted on making to General Medows) an elephant or two should be added. On these points I have heard nothing further and tho' I should wish that Buchajee might be treated with all due personal civility, yet am I of opinion that he is not entitled to the reception of a public Minister by the Governor General, till the necessary ceremonies of delivering his credentials etc. are gone through. As to the etiquette of his reception I presume he is not by his powers on a footing with me and when I visit the Peshwa, he enters the room after me to avoid rising to receive me tho' he always rises at my taking leave. His Lordship is acquainted that most of my business here is carried on through Behro Punt, my visits to the Peshwa are seldom and merely ceremonious, to the Minister not frequent, whose behavior is always civil and sometimes with the appearance of frankness and confidence, but that appearances cannot conceal a most careful and guarded circumspection. If I demand an audience either of the Peshwa or Minister it is generally granted with very little delay or if I wish to see Behro Punt he generally complies with my desire. I always make a point of complying without delay or hesitation with invitations from the Peshwa or Minister, unless prevented by particular causes. The Minister always hears very patiently what I have to say but in matters of consequence generally refers me for an answer to a future communication through Behro Punt. I have troubled you with these few hints as they may be acceptable to his Lordship on his approaching acquaintance with Buchajee to whom, while I think any personal kindness and civility would be serviceable to me at this Court, I need not remark that much circumspection may without umbrage be observed in more material affairs. Whatever may pass, permit me to request timely notice of it. I have engaged an agent named Condarao Yadoo a Bramin to attend Hurry Punt, who will be instructed to address you whenever it may be practicable.

I am just favored with your two letters of the 9th instant, enclosing Major Auchmuty's account of the capture of Cananore and letters from his Lordship to the Peshwa and Minister on that subject. His Lordship

will have learnt from my late letters the particular communication of our brilliant and important successes on the Mallabar Coast to this Court to which I shall now add the confirmation of his Lordship's letters.

**No. 104**—Death of Mr. Yvon is reported by Malet

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—G HAY, SECRETARY, FORT WILLIAM.

*Poona, 2nd April 1791.*

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose my accounts for last month, also copies of my last accounts with the B'bay Govt and papers in explanation of them. In my address to the Gov Genl. of 7th instant I signified my intention of stopping Mr Yvon's allowance from the end of February and my subsequent letters will have informed Govt of the death of that valuable man and of the additional and advantageous supplies that I have since procured for the B'bay Govt. and remitted to Mr Paymaster Uthloff whose military chest must be amply furnished to the end of April.

**No. 105**—The Resident at Sindia's Court communicates the situation in the North to Malet and mentions the intentions of Sindia, from whom there was no likelihood of danger to the Company, says he.

FROM—MAJOR PALMER,

TO—RESIDENT, POONA.

*Agra, 28th April 1791.*

Dear Sir,

I have been favored with yours of the 6th ultimo accompanying copies of your correspondence with Lord Cornwallis continued to the 4th. It is with the truest satisfaction I can now congratulate you on the rapid success of his Lordship's operations against the enemy in penetrating the Bhalla Ghaut and reducing such a fortress as Bangalore after a few days open trenches and in sight of Tippoo and his whole army. This with the fortunate progress of General Abercromby above the passes on the Malabar side, the approach of the Pashwa's troops under Hurry Punt Ferkia and of the Nizam's Cavalry cannot fail, I think, to give us a speedy and glorious termination of the war, and as I have just heard from Sindia's Camp of advices received by him from Poona of the surrender of Damal, I hope, that the labour and anxiety to which you have lately been subjected will now be mitigated and removed. I give credit to this report because it is accompanied by that of the fall of Bangalore and some other events which I know to be true.

I observe from a letter of yours to Lord Cornwallis that you entertain some apprehension of the future designs of the Mahratta State in maintaining so large a force on this side of India and conciliating Sindia who has the conduct of it. But I think these will be removed on an attentive consideration to the present condition of that force, the dissensions of the great leaders and the disposition of very power in Indoostan, to drive the Mahiattas out of it. I do not know the nature of that friendly connection and confidence which at present subsists between the Paishwa's principal Minister and Sindia, but I think it probable the object of it with both is the preservation of their power and influence in their respective stations, as any views in Indoostan beyond their present establishment would require a complete union of their strength and counsels and of course this would either be effected, or Ally Bahadur and Holkar recalled to obviate the dangers of disunion and a divided authority. To judge from present appearances these discords are fomented at Poona to check the growing greatness of Sindia which is perhaps already too formidable for open opposition and threatens to become independent of the State, although it may be useful to the personal views of the Minister and is therefore for the present ostensibly supported. You, however, must possess means greatly superior to mine of knowing the true character and designs of the Mahiatta Government and be they what they may, we have I think little to fear from them whilst we are on our guard, even though Sindia should become the instrument of their execution which, I think, he will not in any circumstances conceive it his interest to be.

You will observe by the papers the little prospect of reconciliation between Sindia and his colleagues particularly Ally Bahadur whose distress for money will in my opinion soon compel him to quit Indoostan.

I do not think that Sindia will make any attempt against the Seiks this season or at most more than a feint of attacking them to prevent their incursions into the Doaub. I am privately informed that he is resolved on a visit to Ogeine but his present situation makes such an excursion appear to me impracticable.

I know not what to think of the unexpected adventure from Nypaul of whose progress to the westward you will see accounts in the country Intelligence. A Vackeel from him to Sindia is arrived in Camp under the patronage of Cheytsing but the purport of his mission has not yet transpired.

Every letter which has come to my hands by your dispatches and none have come by any other conveyance, for Mirza Shukur ulla, has been instantly enclosed to Syed Rezza Khan to deliver on the spot which he asserts to have done invariably and without delay. The case of miscarriage will probably be discovered by enquiry at the houses on which the bills were made payable.

**No. 106**—Palmer from Sindia's Court congratulates Malet on his efficient management of the war and describes the attitude of Mahadji Sindia

FROM—MAJOR PALMER,

TO—C. W. MALET.

*Agia, 23<sup>d</sup> May 1791.*

Dear sir,

I have been duly favored with your letters dated the 9th and 21<sup>st</sup> ultimo and sincerely congratulate you on the great and fortunate events which they communicated and which afford a moral certainty of a speedy and glorious termination of the war. The masterly, spirited and successful conduct of Lord Cornwallis in the operations of the campaign have greatly added to our national and military character and cannot fail to stimulate our allies to effectual exertions in the common cause. I am concerned to learn that the junction of the Nizam's Cavalry was much more dilatory than was promised by which some precious time was wasted, but as his Lordship would be able to open his batteries against Seringputtum by the middle of this month at farthest, I have no doubt of his reducing it before he can suffer any impediments from the commencement of the periodical rains.

Our friend Mahajee Sindia has expressed his satisfaction at our success against Tippoo in a very handsome manner and has written letters of congratulations upon it to Lord Cornwallis and Mr Stuart, but his joy has not been quite so manifest as that of the good people at Poona, the reason will perhaps appear in the enclosed paper of separate intelligence which I have just received from his camp. He, however, continues steadily to maintain his friendship and connection with us and indeed seems intent upon improving it by every act of kindness and confidence which he has an opportunity of performing. He cheerfully permitted our troops detached for the defence of the Vizier's frontier in the Doaub to march through his territories to save the trouble and delay of twice crossing the Ganges merely to avoid them as had been the former practice; and has since consented to their encamping at Currumbans for the convenience of shade and of the river which could not be found together in his Excellency's districts. He probably apprehends that an increase of the power and dominion of the State will diminish his authority in Indoostan, his rivals Ally Bahadur and Holkar have united more firmly by recent engagements and appear determined to maintain their ground in Indoostan, which with his apparent inability to satisfy the claims of his troops are "strong additional circumstances of insecurity and must impel him to cultivate the favourable disposition of our Government by every means he can devise. This situation of the Mahratta interests on this side of India certainly offers a prospect of advantage to us in future political contingencies. At any rate I think it gives us the best founded assurances of permanent tranquillity.

Sindia very much approves of Ramjee Patil's testifying his zeal for the success of our arms and says that he was instructed on his appointment to the Vakaulut to pay you the utmost attention

I hear nothing of the progress of Hurry Punt Ferkia but suppose he will be in at the . . . . It is not of much consequence now how inactive the Mahattas may remain, I regard all the advantages which we could desire from their alliance as already secured

I have the pleasure to enclose answers from Meer Shukur-Ullah to the two last letters for him which reached me in your dispatches

With best wishes for the continuance of your health and prosperity and with the sincerest esteem

*P S*—Excuse my troubling you with the request of a friend with the accompanying letter for England which you will much oblige me by forwarding the first copy either by sea or land.



## SECTION 3

### *Mahadji Sindia's move to Poona*

No. 107—Palmer communicates to Malet his criticisms on Maratha character and a general review of the situation of Mahadji Sindia and of north India.

FROM—MAJ. PALMER,

TO—C. W. MALET.

*Agra, 21st June 1791.*

Dear Sir,

Since my last to you of the 23rd I have been favoured with your dispatch of the 25th ultimo.

I am rather concerned than surprised to observe by your correspondence with Lord Cornwallis the frequent occasion which you have to remonstrate with the Poona Court on their shifts, evasions and delays in executing the stipulations of the treaty. I never supposed they would be restrained by any regard to good faith or honor from any advantage they could take of us in the alliance with impunity. I trusted however to the superior benefits which it holds out to them above any offer which Tippoo can make them for their not betraying or actually abandoning us, and I knew that they must keep up such appearances, as would secure their claims regulated by the treaty, which would at least make a favourable division in support of our more earnest and vigorous exertions and I confess that they have in this rather exceeded my expectations. They will hardly show less zeal in the cause, since it has proceeded so successfully and we may promise ourselves the full and speedy completion of all our objects in this just and necessary war.



You will see by the country newspapers that some expressions have escaped Sindia strongly indicative of his indisposition to the rapid progress of our army against Tippoo. My conjecture on the cause is his apprehension that a successful termination of the war will afford leisure to the Poona Government to check his ambitious views and to circumscribe his power and influence. Yet I cannot suppose he would expose himself to the resentment of our Government by any advice or attempt to draw off the Paishwa from the alliance or force us into a premature and inadequate peace. It is, however, by no means impossible that the impediments which he meets with to a permanent and profitable establishment in Indoostan may have determined him to turn his attention another way and to regain his station and influence in the general concerns of the empire. His earnest discourse of an intention to visit Ogein and preparations for such a journey give some colour to the scheme, but the obstacles to its accomplishment appear to me so numerous and his design in holding out so obviously to be the intimidating the Rajahs of Oudipore and Chitore etc., into his demands, that I do not think it possible. Should I however be mistaken and see his back fairly turned upon Indoostan I shall conclude that he will never return to it, but will leave it to be struggled for by the Poona Government or Ally Bahadur and Holkar.

Even in this event I should think his plan has been concerted with and secured by Nanna Furnaweess. The objects of it must be highly important to our interests and I hope you will be able to obtain the earliest information of them, if there should be any foundation for these surmises. But this will probably be best discovered at Poona.

Upon the whole I think Sindia will make some effort to get clear of Holkar and Ally Bahadur and a march into Mehwar may serve to sound the disposition of your Durbar as to his quitting Indoostan. At the same time it will overawe the refractory Rajahs of that province.

Bhow Bukshy seems to decline in credit with his Master. He has been dispossessed of the farm of Baroach and I believe not without good reason for mismanagement and oppression. He is at present employed with Ambajee in Mehwar which I believe has served only as a pretext for removing him from Sindia's presence without discredit. He is supplanted by Aba Chitneweess who is much his superior in talents and knowledge of business. I shall not be sorry if he also supplants the Bhow in the agency of English affairs, for the latter is insufferably tedious and indecisive.

If Ishmail Beg Khan can penetrate into Guzerat he will give considerable disturbance to the Mahratta Government, but I am of opinion he will perish in the attempt to get through.

I have just heard of the glorious action near Serrungputtum on the 15th ultimo on which I offer to you my sincerest congratulations.

Permit me to trouble you with forwarding the accompanying letters directed for Surat by any opportunity you may have.

**No. 108**—Palmer writing from Agra to Malet discourses on the movements and intentions of Mahadji Sindia, who is reported to have effected peace and settlement in the north.

FROM—MAJ. PALMER,

TO—C. W. MALET

*Agra, 8th July 1791*

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure to write to you on the 21st ultimo and to acquaint you with the reports and appearances of Sindia's moving to the southward. As he has actually commenced and steadily pursues that route, I have no doubt left of his proceeding to Ogein as he professes in his letter to the Governor General.

I am still of the opinion which I gave to the Board that he will speedily return to Mutura as he declares in his letter to his Lordship, and I am rather confirmed in it by the tranquil appearance of the country since his absence and the superiority of force which he has left to maintain it, although I at first thought the risque too great for any object I could discover in such an excursion as he has now undertaken.

Holkar and Ally Bahadur seem to be but little in condition to give disturbance to Sindia's affairs were they so disposed. The Rajpoots are reduced to utter imbecility. The Seiks are divided and at war amongst themselves and the season does not admit of distant or difficult military operations.

In this state of things Sindia's absence appears to me much less hazardous to his interests here than I at first conceived it, and his purposes to the southward if they are such as he avows, may be executed securely during the rains.

It is still affirmed by people of intelligence that he will proceed to Poona. But for my own part I cannot believe that he will relinquish the splendid establishment he has made here for the chance of obtaining the lead of the army or councils of the Paishwa in the Deccan. All the knowledge which I have of his situation either positively or relatively makes such a scheme incredible. You will, however, as I have observed in my last, be best able to ascertain his real views on that side of India.

I forward copy of my letter to the Board on the subject of the Patel's journey and of his to Lord Cornwallis and myself in order to afford you all the light upon it in my power.

Be so good as to forward the enclosed to Col. Rose when you have occasion to send dispatches to Camp.

I remain with great truth and regard,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient and faithful humble servant,

**No. 109**—Malet describes his visits to the Minister and the Peshwa on the progress of the war.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K. G., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

*Poona, 20th July 1791.*

My Lord,

The people mentioned in my address of the 12 to have been dispatched to ascertain the truth of the intelligence of emissaries having arrived from Tippu at Wyhe have returned, but their report being contradictory still leaves me in doubt as to the fact of the arrival of agents, tho' I hear very little of letters having been lately received and answered.

On the 19th inst I visited the Minister and communicated to him the resolutions of the House of Commons of the 2nd March on the war in India agreeable to the intention of the Court of Directors signified in their letter to the Government of Madras of the 4th March as conveyed to me in a letter from Mr. Secy Jackson of 21 June received here the 9th inst.

I took occasion from this important communication to explain to the Minister the causes of my late urgency to prevail on him to accede to your Lordship's proposal of forming a Congress at Bangalore and begged to know if at last I was to have the pleasure of transmitting a more satisfactory answer than had hitherto been furnished me. The Minister with an appearance of irksomeness under a renewal of the subject said, that the substance of the letter meant to be written by the Durbar in answer to your L'dship's containing the proposal, would be a reference to a further consideration of the affair by your L'dship and Hurry Punt, and on the result being transmitted here, it should be communicated to me when a final resolution should be taken on it.

I expressed to the Minister my objections to the mode of proceeding as involving very great and unnecessary delay on a subject relative to which he was now as well acquainted from the frequent advices received from Hurry Punt, since your L'dship is furnishing him with copies of your correspondence with Tippoo and subsequent letters to himself and the Peshwa, as could be expected or be requisite to regulate his judgment. But as this and various other arguments to which I had recourse were ineffectual, it would be an unnecessary trouble to repeat them to your Lordship. The Minister assured me he would give me the letters on this subject to your Lordship in a day or two, but I have good information that copies have already been dispatched to Hari Pant.

The Minister acquainted me that the apprehension he had long since mentioned to me of some Camel-Couriers with important dispatches from Hani Pant having been seized by the enemy was confirmed, that he had no advices later than 30 days and that the communication with the army by the direct route of Chittuldroog was entirely cut off by the enemy's Beydars and parties from his unsubdued posts in that part of the country. He likewise acquainted me that he had intelligence of Appa Saib, Bhaou's Son, being on his way northward by the route of Chittuldroog at the head of about 4,000 horse—and that Mehde Ally Khan's advance to the Nabob's residence was without previous consultation with or the acquiescence of this Court

Having finished the conference with the Minister I proceeded with him to the Peshwa's to whom likewise I formally announced the resolutions of the House of Commons from the written copy furnished me by the Madras Board, when he in reply observed by the mouth of the Minister that no other decision could have been expected from the confidence due to the wisdom of Lord Cornwallis's administration in general, and this measure in particular

To my formal and official communication I added intelligence of the vigorous measures taken in Europe, by supplies of men and money, to secure, as far as human wisdom and exertion can secure, an honorable termination of the war, on which he observed through the Minister that the State of the British force and resources in India were fully equal to the present contest.

Having on the morning of these conferences with the Peshwa and Minister received from Mr. Secretary Jackson copy of your Lordship's letter of the 25 ult to the Madras Board, I mentioned it to the Minister who was desirous to know the contents being 6 days later than his last advices but on my mentioning Otterydroog and Sewendroog he seemed ignorant of the same and the situation of those places

From the Minister's intelligence relative to the interruption of a direct communication from hence with your Lordship which will of course be increased daily by the combined armies moving to the east, I am led to apprehend the loss of many letters to and from the army, tho' for the greater security many of my late dispatches have been forwarded by express Hircarras in preference to the Mairatta Dawk. Transcripts however of all have been forwarded either through Sir John Kennaway or the Madras Govt.

I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship that the Company's ship "Raymond" which left England the 7th March last arrived at B'bay the 15th instant and to remain, etc.

**No. 110**—Malet feeling slighted by the Minister appeals to C. C. to keep up his prestige in the negotiations. He also recommends Nuruddin Hussein Khan's services being rewarded by grant of a village offered by Balloo Miya.

FROM—C. W MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 24th July 1791.*

When I last addressed your Lordship the 20th inst, I hoped ere this to have forwarded the Durbar's answers to your letters of the 1st June, but as I have not been yet furnished with them, impute the delay to this Court's desire of giving ample time for the arrival of the previous despatches to Hurry Punt on the subject

On the 22nd Balloo Miah waited on the Peshwa to take leave on his departure to his new principality, when he was presented with an elephant, horses, sirpech and juga, with such keelats to himself and followers, as I had discussed might be presented to preserve the necessary appearance of respect to your Lordship's interposition in his behalf. On his return from the Peshwa's he called on me to assure me of his unalterable gratitude to our nation, whose influence had been so effectually exerted by your Lordship to extricate him from the distressing situation to which he had been reduced. Unable, as he assures me, to convey any adequate idea of his sense of the benefits derived from the Company's support to the principals concerned in extending it to him, he has requested me to permit my Vackeel, Syed Noor-al-Deen Hussein Khan to accept a village in jagheer, in his new principality as a place of retreat, whenever circumstances may deprive him of the employment which he now holds under me and which (from the wonderful revolutions that for some years past have subverted the Mahomedan Power in Hindostan, and in which his paternal property has been involved), is his only dependance for a very large family.

As his offer is entirely spontaneous, I have so managed the Peshwa's grant as to prevent the introduction of any of those burthensome claims on it which I had reason to expect would be insisted on by certain officers of the Durbar. As my Vackeel has been disappointed in the recovery of some family possessions in the north of Hindostan and in the instahment in a royal appointment in the city of Surat, the pharman for which was procured at the instance of Mr. Boddam in his Chiefship of that settlement, and as through a course of 15 years,\* in which he has been employed in important and confidential occasions under our Government, his conduct has been zealous and trustworthy, I hope your Lordship will have no objection to his accepting the voluntary offer of a secure retreat for himself and family from those distresses to which after his long and faithful services he must otherwise be inevitably exposed on my departure from this station. For your Lordship's further information in deciding

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\* That is, since 1776.

on this question permit me to observe that Ballo Miah's bounty will not be fruitlessly employed in granting an asylum to a family, the members of which are eminently qualified to give great support and respectability to his Govt. and whose services will be cheaply purchased by such a donation.

On the 23rd I was favoured by Sir John Kennaway with copy of his address to your Lordship of the 13th inst. and immediately communicated to the Durbar Mehde-Ally-Khan's dismissal and Meer Allum's appointment to wait on your Lordship. This Durbar's jealousy will, I hope, be quited by the first piece of intelligence. Its emulation to gratify your Lordship in a reasonable proposal should be excited by the latter and I trust, that by Sir John's precedent objection to Mehde-Ally-Khan's travelling with Meer Allum on the plea of safety, or even to his proceeding through the Company's districts except in the last necessity, all further room for conjecture of this Man's embassy being in collusion with the Nabob's or our Govt, will be removed

Tho' this Court has thought proper to disregard my earnest solicitations for a compliance with your Lordship's proposal of sending its delegate to a general Congress, I hope that this Nabob's acquiescence in it by the dispatch of Meer Allum, will at length induce its accession also, notwithstanding the prospect that I have good reason to think has been held up to the Minister by Hurry Punt of your Lordship's being prevailed on to drop the proposal. But whether your Lordship shall be pleased to persevere in it or not, permit me to suggest, on principles of regard to the respectability of my station, your Lordship's signifying such a sense of this Court's extraordinary mode of treating my representations on the subject as in your judgment may appear best calculated to give them weight and efficacy in future

**No. 111**—The Peshwa writing to the G. G. offers his consent to peace-negotiations with Tipu and authorizes Hari Pant to conduct them on his own behalf.

*Poona, 28th July 1791.*

*Translate of a letter from Nanna Furnavese to Earl Cornwallis to the same purport and of the same date as one from the Peshwa delivered to the Resident at Poona to be forwarded the 28 July*

After compliments.—Your pleasing favor containing (here follows a particular recapitulation of Lord C's. letter of the 1st June) reached me in an happy hour and gave me infinite pleasure, the substance of which had been previously communicated by Hurry Punt and the arrival of your well-timed letter added to my pleasure thereat.

In consequence of your having advanced to attack and reduce the enemy, the Circar conceiving it incumbent to aid and assist you in every respect, dispatched Hurry Punt at the head of a large and chosen force

with orders to cross the Tumbudra by repeated marches and join your Lordship with the utmost expedition and to give your Lordship constant and particular intelligence of his progress. And after his departure repeated letters were sent him to the same purport. In the same manner orders were issued to Pursuram Pundit to exert himself to the utmost in the reduction of Darwar and immediately after its capture to cross the Tumbudra and proceed by uninterrupted marches to join the English forces. Agreeable to these orders Pursuram Pundit having reduced the said fortress both those chiefs separately crossed the Tumbudra and dispatched intelligence of their motions to your Lordship which from the confusions in the country miscarried, nor did any letters from your Lordship reach them. This was very extraordinary. But what has happened is past. I have no doubt of your Lordship's sincere regard for the preservation of our friendship, observance of subsisting treaties or of your hearty desire to promote the welfare of this Circar and of the Nabob Assof-Ja Bahadur equal to that of the Hon'ble Company from the commencement of the Confederacy.

Previous to which your L'dship was desirous of cementing and confirming our friendship, but verily in the present intimate connexion every appearance of difference is removed. As the measures and councils of the present great undertaking have been concerted by mutual agreement and armies been accordingly dispatched, it is proper that your Lordship should communicate without hesitation to the chiefs of the Circar your Lordship's past transactions and your present councils and intentions and in like manner without the smallest reserve are the intentions of the Circar communicated to your Lordship.

In these days letters reached your Lordship from the enemy and answers were immediately returned, copies of all were given by your Lordship to the chiefs of the Circar, who transmitted them here and their contents have been fully understood. By the grace of God your Lordship's friendly mind is eminently endowed with truth, firmness, perseverance and fidelity to engagements, and from the substance of the said correspondence your Lordship's truth and sincerity have been clearly conveyed to my mind. My Lord, it is the resolution of the Circar to preserve unbroken and uninterrupted the present cordiality and alliance, and night and day the Circar is occupied in the measures and councils dependent thereon, and by the grace of God, the assistance of your friends is inseparable from your Lordship and your sincere friends are sharers with your Lordship in the good and evil, the distresses and successes, the labors and councils of the present war, which must be so manifest to your Lordship as to need no explanation.

With respect to laying the foundation of pacific negotiations with the enemy in a manner advantageous to all parties and in what place to assemble a Congress and in the event of such assembly what person to appoint on

the part of the Circar with powers for that purpose, an answer after due deliberation has been transmitted to Hurry Punt, who will communicate it to your Lordship. Your Lordship likewise will be particularly informed of it by Mr Malet. Permit me to hope the favour of frequently receiving letters communicating your health and the intelligence of those parts.

**No. 112**—Malet conveys to the G G his strong resentment against the Poona Court in general and against Hari Pant Phadke in particular.

FROM—CHARLES MALET

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K G, GOVERNOR-GENERAL

*Poona, 30th July 1791.*

My Lord,

My last respects were dated the 24th inst.

I have now the honor to transmit your Lordship the Peshwa's and Minister's answers to your letters of the 1st June in which your Lordship will perceive that notwithstanding my having so particularly pointed out your Lordship's interpretation of Tippoo's word "Confines" as applicable only to Bangalore, this Court studiously mentions that point as undetermined. Its ascertainment therefore by the unequivocal assent of Tippoo would deprive the Minister of his ostensible cause of non-compliance, nor can Tippoo, who long ago made unlimited offers of sending a Vackeel to your Lordship, now reasonably hesitate to send one to any place you may prescribe.

I have already assigned to your Lordship this Court's desire of giving Hurry Punt previous notice of its determination on the proposed Congress as one of the causes that have delayed its favoring me with answers to your Lordship's letters; and intimations have been conveyed to me in a most secret and confidential manner that non-compliance with your proposal has arisen from or being confirmed by the advices received from that quarter. But your Lordship's intercourse with that chieftain will teach you the degree of credit due to this imputation or whether it may not be attributed to an artful design in B P or even the Minister at once to throw the odium of non-compliance on that chief and to create a coolness between him and your Lordship, in the same manner as I am given to understand that Hurry Punt who is desirous of subverting B Pt's and my influence here by drawing all negotiations with your Lordship into the undivided channel of his own mediation.

Certain it is that a most violent antipathy subsisted between Hurry Punt and Behro Punt, and tho' I think it not improbable that the former may on the present occasion have endeavoured to strike at the latter's influence with the Minister by giving him hopes of a more agreeable treatment of the Congress proposal than have been conveyed by my representations through B Pt., yet, on the other hand, I am not without some apprehension that B Pt disappointed in some late applications to me to accompany him to the Congress, may thereon have formed the design of counteracting it, since without my support he would have despaired of



equalling at the Congress H P.'s credit with your Lordship, when by changing his ground and opposing it, he may at least for a time gratify the Minister and himself by a prospect of still keeping the whole negotiations in their own hands and at the same time hope that, by the confidential intimations conveyed to me, the odium of the non-admission of the measure may be transferred from himself to H Pt

I have, my Lord, endeavoured to make as concise a sketch as possible of a very delicate negotiatory predicament with a Court whose views are conducted by men unchecked by principles, unawed by responsibility and who from their infancy are habituated to the promotion of their designs by all the versatility of Machiavelian art and all the perseverance of the most stoical apathy, by men, my Lord, with whom chicane is a ability, business, amusement, intrigue, recreation and circumvention pleasure, who in their exercise of those qualities are actuated by an insatiable lust of power and of gain.

With such a genius and such sentiments too positive a prevalence of our power, even tho' palpably exerted from respect to our engagements with our allies, will be a source of jealousy and probably of an artful traversing of our operations and negotiations, on the other hand a want of that power would as certainly subject us to encroachment in negotiation and to a sacrifice of our interests to the promotion of theirs.

The exact predicament that our allies would wish us to be in is that of strength sufficient to hold up in terrorism their enemy, to the accomplishment of their own views, so blended with weakness as to reduce us to such a state of dependance on them as would necessitate our acquiescence in their terms and in those antiquated pretensions which I doubt not they will endeavour to introduce, tho' totally unsupported by the ruling principle of the treaty of alliance, in which all exclusive advantages are clearly defined and from which, I humbly presume, a deviation except in some specific case of acknowledged indulgence, might be attended with serious embarrassment

I understand that a meeting has taken place between Malhar Rao the refractory son of Holcar and Rang Rao the chieftain sent hence to reduce him, at Baubgaum,\* a place belonging to the Holcar family about 15 cos hence and that the young man is soon expected here to make his submission to the Peshwa.

**No. 113**—Malet reports to G G his sentiments and insinuations on the subject of negotiations for peace with Tipu

FROM—C. W MALET.

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

*Poona, 5th August 1791*

My Lord,

Since my last address of the 30 ulto, I have been honored with your Lordship's command of the 12th June and have conveyed to the

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\* Wafgaum.

Minister the assurance contained therein that no decisive answer on the subject of peace should be given to Tippo without a previous communication with him

From my address of the 2nd July your Lordship will perceive a difference in the account communicated to me by this Court as the answer of Hurry Punt to Tippo, and that contained in your Lordship's letter of the 12th June, viz, the Durbar's account stands thus "If you, Tippo, will agree to treat on terms satisfactory to the three Circars, permission will be granted for your sending a Vakeel," Your Lordship's thus, "If he, Tippo, will address letters to the three states expressing his desire to terminate our present differences, a confidential person would be received from him in this camp to state his propositions"

This difference I have pointed out personally to Behro Punt who observed that in either point of view it struck at the proposal of a Congress, both on the part of Tippo in writing separate letters and making separate propositions during your Lordship's reference of the Congress plan to the other branch of the Confederacy and on the part of H. P. as conditionally assenting to such separate propositions while a previous one was under the consideration of the Allies

From recent lights drawn from channels in which I have considerable faith, this Government's repugnance to the Congress seems founded on the following circumstances —

(1) Disinclination on the part of Behro Punt to enter on a scene in which he would appear with inferior weight and splendour to Hurry Punt,

(2) Jealousy on the part of the Minister and rivalry on the part of Behro Punt in bar of delegating the requisite plenipotentiary powers to Hurry Punt, and, though last not least,

(3) National pride that is hurt by the transfer of such momentous concerns from under the immediate management of this Court whose negotiatory genius is accurately described in the Persian allegory of the ostrich called in Persian the Camel Bird,—who when going to be fed claimed the allowance of a camel but when called on to be laden, pleaded its inability as a bird.

But notwithstanding the Minister's opposition to your Lordship's reasonable proposal of a Congress on these principles, I am strongly inclined to think that by your Lordship's persevering in it and enforcing it with those numerous arguments that occur in its favor to H. P. when he enters on the business on delivery of the Durbar's answers to your Lordship's proposition, the Minister will either be necessitated to accede to a measure already approved by two of the contracting powers, or as an expedient for saving what he conceives the dignity of this Court and still more so far preserving the management of this Court's part of the negotiations in his own hands, he will be obliged to lead the Peshwa into

the field and carry him into some such situation as may give him the appearance of being at least an equal if not the principal actor in the scene ; and to this I have had a view in frequently insisting on the indecency of this Court's checking your Lordship's reasonable proposals for negotiation, while by your Lordship's personal labours and exertions, the Peshwa is enabled to remain secure in his palace amidst the arduous struggles of so dangerous a war.

I am not without suspicion that this Court will put on the appearance of a very serious stand and that it will exert its whole influence and even employ the rumoured approach of Sindia who is not friendly to Nizam Ally Khan, to draw His Highness into its views of negotiation, but as I have already said I am of opinion that on your Lordship's mild but firm perseverance in so reasonable a plan on pleas of common good in a common cause that the Minister must accede or adopt the expedient abovementioned

At all events I conceive no evils can arise from your Lordship's persevering to insist, at least till this Court can find a better, on a proposal to which no reasonable objection can be made and which may be strongly enforced with H. P. by expressions of a desire from personal regard that he may be the delegate of this State, a language which at the same time that it would highly flatter him, might if urged likewise to this Court as arising from a conviction of his great ability and zeal for the interests of his master, greatly influence the jealousy of the Minister and Behro Punt to get rid of the question by the above alternative, and in this line of proceeding it would perhaps be most politic to prosecute the object solely on grounds of common good without any expostulatory notice of the Minister's late treatment of my applications, as suggested in my address of the 20th ulto. Since such ebullitions of ungrounded dissatisfaction as then fell from the Minister, are generally followed in sensible minds by a consciousness of the necessity of reparations by some future act of complaisance ; at all events the perseverance of your Lordship in the present case will be the clearest vindication and confirmation of the propriety of my conduct ; and the necessity of any specific sanction of it for the preservation of my credit here, will perhaps be greatest in the event of your Lordship's relinquishing the point for which I contended.

It escaped me to mention that the Minister likewise objects to assenting to Tippo's proposals for peace in his letters to your Lordship as containing a kind of preliminary of the rights of the parties at the commencement of the war, whereas he, the Minister, remarks that the Confederacy was palpably entered into on principles of partition to reduce and install the exorbitant power of a prince, whose perfidy, cruelty, bigotry, and ambition, had rendered him a terror to all his neighbors and a disturber of the general tranquillity. To this I have replied that the copies of the correspondence which I had the honor to deliver to this Court, were accompanied with a specific declaration by me of your

Lordship's resolution to prosecute the most vigorous measures for distressing the common enemy and reducing him to the necessity of giving ample satisfaction to all the members of the Confederacy.

I was exceedingly happy to learn that your Lordship has been able to prevail on the Marratta Chiefs to accede to your plan of returning to Bengalore as from their predilection for a position better suited to preserve the direct line of communication by Chitterdroog with their own frontier, I am sure your Lordship must have had occasion for all your influence and all your persuasion to get them to relinquish so favorite an object, but which would have been beneficial only to themselves, while by occupying the convenient station of Bengalore I conceive the communication of each army with its respective frontier may be easily affected, and I learn from respectable authority that Pursaram Bhaou has moved northward for that purpose, so that I hope the direct intercourse from hence to Bengalore will soon be rendered tolerably safe and practicable

On the 3rd inst I received letters from Major Palmer which give every reason to conclude that the Patell has serious thoughts of visiting Ugin. If so, I have not a doubt but he will by reports of his advancing even to Poona, endeavor by a prospect of the embarrassment which such a visit would be attended with to this administration in the present state of affairs and by the dread of the part he might wish to take in any future negotiations with Tippu to constrain the Minister to act as he (Sindia) may dictate with respect to Holkar and Ally Bhadur. This added to various domestic inducements seems the most probable, for I cannot at present divine any possible motive that could draw him to Poona unless such a participation in the ensuing negotiations as he may think proper to prescribe, but which the Minister can never be induced to grant, unless from compulsory motives on the part of the Patell of which I at present see no signs, or a conviction on the part of Nanna of the necessity of the additional weight of Sindia's presence to control the Nizam and your Lordship and tho' we have had sufficient experience of the Pattell's craft in negotiations and regard to his own interest, I trust he will not attempt to promote the latter on the present occasion by a barter of his influence to our detriment for concessions of emolument or aggrandizement from his own Government. It may also be hoped that a variety of incidents in a country so fertile in revolutions as Hindostan, may soon draw his attention again to that quarter, nor can he be perfectly secure while Myrza Ismael Beg, whose father Myrza Nassem Beg has lately fallen into his hands, remains at the head of so large a force as I understand he has collected and with which by my latest accounts, he was threatening Guzerat from the northward, a province that from the recent desolations of a terrible famine and the weakness of the Brahmin and Guykwar Government is ill-prepared to withstand an invasion conducted with but moderate force or ability.

I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter to me lately received from Hurry Punt and a triplicate of the Minister's letter to your Lordship forwarded in my address of 30 ulto.

**No. 114**—Malet reports to the G. G. proposals from Nana on the subject of peace negotiations with Tipu.

FROM—C. W. MALET.

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K. G., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

*Poona, 14th August 1791.*

My Lord,

In my last address of the 10 Inst. I acknowledged rect. of your Lordship's letter of the 16 July, since which I have communicated to the Durbar the capture of Oussore and such part of your Lordship's account of your friendly meetings with Hurry Punt and Pursaram Bhaou, as I thought would be grateful to the Minister confining the cause of any particular attention you might pay to H P to your Lordship's knowledge of his entire dependence on the Minister.

An advance has been made me by the Minister through Behro Punt to lead the Peshwa into the field for the better and more expeditious management of pacific negotiations, to this purport that the Peshwa should advance to some convenient station where he might be joined by the Nabob and if practicable by your Lordship also; or if by neither, that the negotiations might be commenced under his mediation, and on the admissibility of this project by your Lordship my opinion was desired, to which I have given the following reply. That the Peshwa's taking the field appears to me in every respect advisable and that the Minister will know how earnestly but how ineffectually I had already urged it, that however from what had lately passed on the subject of the Congress, he might easily conclude that I could not on any vague language relative to a measure on which I had already been so frequently amused, think of making any communication to your Lordship, but that if the Minister would candidly and decidedly make a specific declaration of his intentions or wishes, I would, from my uniform desire of cultivating his friendship and of promoting the unanimity, cordiality and common good of the alliance take the requisite steps. But as to giving any opinion of your Lordship's probable decision on the management of the negotiations for a peace through the Peshwa's mediation I must decline venturing any, since from what had already passed on your Lordship's proposal of a Congress it was impossible for me to judge of the admissibility of any other mode of negotiation.

At the same time that the above advance was made me, I received the following relative to Myrza Ismael, that he had approached the northern confines of Guzerat and as his intentions were doubtful and

that province from the late terrible famine reduced to great distress, the Minister desired me to procure orders to the Bombay Government or the Chief of Surat to furnish one or two battalions of sepoys on the requisition of the Subhadar of Guzerat whose pay during then service under this Government should be defrayed by the Peshwa.

To which I replied that the Minister well knew that the force of the Presidency of B'bay was fully employed against the common enemy in so much that I had countermanded the native battalion ordered to return to Bombay after the capture of Darwar and that it was now actually serving with Pursaram Bhaou,—that on the other hand the provincial force of the Peshwa's Govt and the Guykwar family is undivided and in full vigor on the spot, while Mhadjee Sindia with a large force is in the neighborhood, and Holcar and Ally Bhadur are near at hand at the head of respectable armies; whence it should seem that the Peshwa's arrangements were in much greater readiness to check the designs of Myrza Ismael Beg than any that could be conveniently made by the Presidency of B'bay, that however if after a due consideration of these points he wished me to write your Lordship on the subject, I should comply

These communications were made to me the 8th, my answer given the 9th, and I should have transmitted your Lordship an account of them in my address of the 10th, had I not been prevented by the expectation of an immediate answer and my desire of communicating the commencement and the conclusion of both points together, but as I have not yet heard any thing further on the subject I have thought it necessary to keep your Lordship informed of what has passed, to prepare you for anything that may come from H. P. on the same subject, particularly the former, as I think it not improbable that the Minister may wish to embarrass any progress to a pacification that Hurry Punt may be making in concert with your Lordship by introducing the above new proposal for negotiation, though as the Minister cannot expect that H. P. should be a zealous promoter of a plan that will again draw the management of affairs out of his hands, he has thought proper, notwithstanding his late treatment of my applications to himself when they did not suit his wishes, to have recourse to the channel of my application to your Lordship in pursuit of his own object. I need not observe, however, that as the affair now stands, it is entitled to no kind of public notice from your Lordship otherwise than as a preparative for what may be expected unless the commission of Appajee Ram\* may give a new direction to the pursuits of this Court.

I am extremely happy in the reflection that while this Court is devising means of promoting its interests, quieting its jealousies and soothing its pride in the approaching negotiations, your Lordship's

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\* Tipu's ambassador at the Maratha Court.

successes against the enemy, by facilitating your communication with the source of your supplies, will realise the great advantages that have been already gained and substantiate your claim to take the same place in the cabinet as you have done in the field. On these considerations I most heartily congratulate your Lordship's acquisition of Oussore which will I hope, be soon followed by Rycota and Ruttunghur with the fertile districts of Barramaul and Salem which with the country of Combatore and the pass of Gudurhutti will form a rich accession of territory and a most desirable frontier to the lower Carnatic.

8 It is reported here that Meer Kummur-al-Deen has been detached by Tippu toward Bednore and that in consequence thereof Burna Bappo the Marratta Commander in that quarter has fallen back but the report wants confirmation

9. I am this instant favoured with a letter from Mr. Cherry enclosing your Lordship's letters of the 22nd ulto to the Peshwa and Minister advancing your Lordship's assent to the reception of Appajee Ram. Mr. Cherry has also favoured me with the pleasing intelligence of the capture of the strong post of Rycota on which I most heartily congratulate your Lordship.

**No. 115**—Malet communicates to the G. G. the conversations he had with the Minister who was trying to keep the negotiations in his own hands.

FROM—C W. MALET.

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K. G., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

*Poona, 20th August, 1791.*

My Lord,

Agreeable to what I had the honor to acquaint your Lordship in my last address of the 17th instant, I waited on the Minister in the evening, presented your letters of 22nd ulto. and explained the circumstances that had induced your Lordship to coincide with Hurry Punt in receiving an agent from Tippu to whom no answer would be given till a previous communication with this Court and Nizam Ally Khan on the subject of his mission. The Minister seemed perfectly satisfied with this intelligence and on my reading to him Tippu's letter to your Lordship, observed that the copy of one to the Peshwa to the same purport and date had been received from Hurry Punt who had kept the original, and that another had been delivered to your Lordship for Nizam Ally Khan The Minister pointedly repeated his enquiries if the reception of Appajee Ram had been by H P.'s advice, and on my satisfying him on that point, he ordered both it and the assurance, that the substance of the Vackeel's communications should be referred to this Court and the Nabob, to be committed to writing by Behro Punt, which had at the time

conveyed to my mind an idea of his intending to make use of the reference to keep the negotiations as long as possible in the same channel, and I accordingly observed that tho' your Lordship in the first instance intended such reference, yet in the event of further progress the presence of two such confidential Ministers as Hurry Punt and Meer Aalum on the spot would preclude all necessity for so tedious and embarrassing a process, but without giving any direct reply to this remark he asked me if I knew the extent of Meer Aalum's powers, and on my generally saying that I presumed they must be equal to all the purposes of negotiation, he said he understood that they were limited and that the principal purpose of his mission was to collect and transmit to his Court such knowledge and make such arrangements as might be requisite to the information and preparative to the reception of the Nabob's son Folad Jung, and he at the same time gave me to understand that notwithstanding the confidential footing of H Punt with the Minister he was not vested with independent powers.

The Minister at this meeting gave me to understand his having learnt from Buchajee Punt that the King my Sovereign had been pleased to honor me with a titular distinction on which he congratulated me. I replied that any mark of His Majesty's favor to me in my present situation must be looked on as proof of regard and attention to this Court

The Minister has desired, notwithstanding my reply to his application relative to Myrza Ismael Beg as communicated in my address of the 14th instant, that I would transmit it to your Lordship, and for your Lordship's information on the subject in addition to what I had then the honor to mention, I have to observe that I have from a channel of credibility learnt that in answer to letters to Sindia on the subject of Myrza Ismael Beg's motions that chief has written the Minister not to be uneasy; for that he will take measures to prevent any bad effects from them, and that in consequence he has written the Raja of Joodpore in whose service Myrza Ismael is, that he shall hold him responsible for his conduct and to the Raja of Jeypore that he shall call upon him for Myrza I.'s family left there, if he commits any disturbances on the Marhatta territories. Should your Lordship therefore think this application entitled to any answer and should you not be inclined to comply with it, I presume that in addition to the pleas of inconvenience from the full employment of our force and the prevalence of the unemployed power of the Marhattas in that quarter, the above circumstances relative to the two Rajas may be used to advantage but without intimation of their knowledge coming from me. From authentic accounts I find Sindia is employed in settling his collections in Mewar and establishing his influence over the Rana of Oudepore so that he was not expected to reach Ugin till the end of the rains.



From what causes I know not but this Court has lately relaxed much in the warmth of its proposal as mentioned in my address of the 14 of the Peshwa's taking the field. Difficulties are now started and my opinion is asked on a variety of points on which I am neither inclined nor competent to give answers, as for instance, whether your Lordship by having procured aids of men and money from Europe is resolved to extirpate the enemy or not, whether in the event of the Peshwa's advancing, a settlement could be effected and he be enabled to return here before the (Dussera ?) and whether the management of the negotiations would be left to this Court. I continue to say that if the Minister will make me any specific proposal I will transmit it to your Lordship with such support as its tendency to promote the good of the alliance may entitle it to, but that from what has formerly passed on the subject of the Peshwa's moving, I can look on nothing short of a specific proposal but as meant to embarrass and amuse, and on this principle, my Lord (as the idea of the Peshwa's taking the field is not yet supposed to be a matter of official notice), permit me to suggest (in the event of Appajee Ram's proposals being deemed admissible as the basis of negotiation), your repeating in the strongest terms the necessity of a person being delegated by this Court with full powers to form a congress in bar of the extreme delay that must otherwise arise from constant reference to so distant a place as this. And in urging this just demand much stress may very properly be laid on the great exertions made throughout the war not only by your Lordship in person and the British forces alone against the enemy's whole power but on the assistance also granted to the allies; and that after such instances of vigor and fidelity in the prosecution of the war, this Court's paying so little regard to events of so great magnitude as to slight your Lordship's reasonable proposal may undoubtedly be construed a deviation from the letter and spirit of the 12th article of the treaty. No evil occurs to me that can be apprehended from such language, to which this Court must accede or propose some mode equally equitable and beneficial to the alliance. For I do not think in the present state of the enemy's force any glaring act of infidelity such I mean as could amount to a secession from the Confederacy, is to be expected from either of our allies, since both of them must feel conviction of our power to overwhelm the enemy, enfeebled as he is, without them. The utmost extent of their present views then must be to the acquisition of exclusive advantages, personal and governmental.

I received a letter from Capt. Little the 17 inst. dated the 30 ulto. from the N. of the Hoggry River at which time they had had very little rain and still suffered from a scarcity of grain and forage, but I trust both those complaints will have been removed ere this by the openings of the communication with the Marhatta frontier and by the fall of rain which we have had here and to the north in great plenty.

The Minister told me that he understands the enemy was assembling some force toward Bednoor but he did not mention Banna Bappo's having fallen back

Tho' nothing has yet passed between me and this Court on the subject of the Peshwa's taking the field that is entitled to have the smallest influence on your Lordship's prosecution of the Congress plan or that is yet in a state for your public notice either here or to H Pt., yet it will occur to your Lordship that your sentiments on the subject may eventually be highly useful and satisfactory to me.

**No. 116**—Malet informs G. G. of the discussions he had with Nana about the Peshwa going to the camp of the allies. He also reports the suffocation to death of 21 Brahmans at Poona and the subsequent punishment of the Head Police Officer Ghasiram.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K. G., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

My Lord,

*Poona, 4th September 1791.*

When I last addressed your Lordship under the 31 ulto. I hoped ere this to have had a meeting with the Minister and to have been able to give you some account of his reception of my repetition of your Lordship's expectation of the appointment of this Court's representative at a congress. But the intervention of the Gunnesch holidays and the confusions lately caused by the suffocation of 21 Brahmans confined in a close place by the Cutwal's Officers which ended in the surrender of the Cutwal himself by Government to the Brahmans of the tribe of those that have been suffocated, by whom he was stoned to death with extraordinary circumstances of contumely and cruelty, have furnished the Minister with an ostensible reason for avoiding an interview, while perhaps the real one may be a disinclination to further discussion with me on a subject that is so fully under reference to your Lordship and Hurry Punt.

The Minister, however, has not been remiss in urging me to adopt his object of using my good offices to prevail on your Lordship to devolve the management of the ensuing negotiations on this Court in the event of the Peshwa's taking the field, which I have uniformly declined, observing that I could recommend nothing to your Lordship even when officially and specifically proposed which I was not convinced would be of general benefit to the confederacy, and that I conceived such benefit could not be derived but from the Peshwa's immediately proceeding to a place, as for instance, Serra where a meeting of the principals of the alliance might be held, which I presumed would greatly tend to awe the enemy in case of the prosecution of hostilities and to accelerate the progress of negotiation, should that mode be adopted of terminating the war. But this proposal not meeting the wish of the Minister I have heard nothing further relative to the Peshwa's moving, while the Minister's neglect of this and many other matters on which I have lately had occasion to apply to him, is by

whispers through channels that claim great confidential merit, attributed to advices from Hurry Punt, who, it is said, rests the hopes which he gives the Minister of advantageous negotiation with your Lordship on the stoppage of every other channel. But tho' by my late advices your Lordship will have learnt that I am not without apprehension of such inuendoes being conveyed to me with an insidious design to sow dissension between your Lordship and H. Pt., I have, as well to prevent the effects of attempts of that nature as to enable you by a comparison of this language and H. Pt.'s conduct to form a true judgment of his designs, thought proper to communicate it, remarking that if the Minister means to confine his negotiations with your Lordship to the channel of Hurry Punt, he ought at least to invest him with the full powers that your Lordship in cases of particular negotiation has always delegated to me for the purposes of dispatch and accommodation.

I have heard nothing of Myrza Israel Beg since my last address. Sindia, I am informed, had advanced towards Oudipore with a view to a meeting with the Rana, and Mulhar Rao Holcar it is said has entered into an agreement with the chief employed against him to wait on the Peshwa

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Your Lordship's intimation of the declaration made to you by H. P. of his being invested with full powers to treat and conclude negotiations on the part of this Government, at the same time that it has relieved me from a heavy burden of anxiety, has increased if possible my former admiration of the inimitable craft and unintelligible wiles of this Court's policy, the deformity and imbecility of which will, I trust, continue to be contrasted and controlled by the powerful opinion of your Lordship's undeviating firmness and rectitude, and I shall have infinite satisfaction in communicating to the Minister the happiness I have derived from Hurry Punt's declaration and the pleasure with which Your Lordship received it.

\* \* \* \* \*

Though I must beg leave to differ with Sir John Kennaway in his inferences with respect to the expediency of the Peshwa's taking the field, if Sir John's exceptions extend to the mode mentioned in the former part of this letter, I trust that in the event of its ever being officially proposed, my late addresses may be of some use in suggesting a civil mode of declining it, should your Lordship be averse to the measure the whole admissibility of which must rest on its being immediately proposed and carried into execution, as I trust the advancement of your Lordship's preparations against the enemy will render it futile if delayed. At all events I humbly presume, your Lordship's plans neither will nor should be delayed by any dependence on the desultory proposals or even the desultory motions of the principals of the allies.

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By Pursaram Bhou's late delays in discharging the orders of this Government on him for the payment of the Bombay detachment Mr. Uhthoff has lately been necessitated to draw on me at the unfavourable exchange of 14 per cent loss

**No. 117**—Malet communicates to the G. G. the intended journey of the Peshwa to Wai Malet was to accompany

FROM—C W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K G, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

*Poona, 9th September 1791.*

My Lord,

On the evening of the 7 ulto. under which date I last addressed your Lordship, I waited on the Peshwa by invitation to see an exhibition of pugilists and wrestlers when the Minister communicated to me the resolution of the Peshwa to enter his tents on the 9th with an intention to be at the Kishna in the neighborhood of Wyhe before the eclipse of the Moon on the 12 October, but that tho' he entered his tents on the ninth being the only auspicious day before the time of departure, he would not proceed within 20 or 25 days. The Minister intimating at the same time that he should accompany the Peshwa I offered my attendance which was well received and accepted. I shall in consequence lose no time in preparing for the journey and making the necessary arrangements relative to the funds and bullock-purchases now under my management for the Bombay Government; and I shall devolve the care of the dawk on a careful person named Muncherjee Moody\* who writes English

On my enquiring of the Minister the probable time of the Peshwa's absence, he said it would depend on circumstances, that put it out of his power to ascertain me at present.

On the 8th I received a visit from Behro Punt with a formal invitation to accompany the Peshwa on his approaching journey the object of which he acquainted me was not absolutely confined to the religious one that was ostensibly assigned, but that as the reports that reached the Minister from all quarters of the extreme scarcity of forage and almost total want of rain in the enemy's country, rendered the expediency or practicability of a further progress doubtful, he could not give me any determinate information on that point

B P at the same time officially acquainted me that Hurry Punt's declaration to your Lordship of being vested with plenipotentiary powers from this Court was avowed and confirmed by the Durbar, on which important point accept, my Lord, my most hearty congratulations.

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\* This gentleman long afterwards continued in the service of the Poona Residency.

The circumstances of Hurry Punt's declaration convey to my mind the clearest conviction of the reality of the predicament surmized in my address to your Lordship of the 17th ulto, that his private instructions authorized him to accede to the requisition if firmly adhered to by your Lordship, and his acquiescence in so reasonable a perseverance on the part of your Lordship was probably facilitated by its coinciding so perfectly with his own interests and inclinations. At all events every previous obstacle is now at an end on the part of this Court, and I sincerely hope that it will be equally accommodating in all points of future controversy where reason may be so palpably on the part of your Lordship.

It is an addition to the satisfaction I have felt on the conclusion of this important point that the apprehension entertained by Sir John Kennaway of the obstacles thrown on Nizam Ally Khan's son and Minister proceeding to join your Lordship will be now removed, since even should any delay in Fozad Jung's setting out be accounted for under the pretence of the Peshwa's taking the field, I presume His Highness can have no objection to placing Meer Alum in his ministerial character on an equality with Hurry Punt.

On the 8th Malhar Rao Holcar encamped in company with Rung Rao Appa, the officer who had been employed to reduce him, in the neighborhood of this city, and on the 9th waited on the Peshwa immediately after he had entered his tents, by whom he was received with great distinction notwithstanding his late very exceptionable conduct which I impute to the high rank and respectability of his father.

I have lately had a good deal of trouble in settling the affair of a foreign merchant boat forcibly taken from under the guns of a post and, as the Bombay Government asserts, from her anchors in the Company's water in the river between Salsette and Bassein. As the affair is long and complex I shall do all in my power to bring it to an amicable termination without further reference to your Lordship, tho' from the length of time it has been already pending I have thought this mention of it necessary.

In reply to my enquiries about the answer given or to be given by this Court to Tippu's late circular letter to the allies, I have been told that H. P. will be ordered to give the requisite answer and that none will be sent from hence.

**No. 118**—Malet conveys to the G. G. some important reflections on the Peshwa's Court and praises the wisdom and rectitude of the G. G.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K. G., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

*Poona, 14th September 1791.*

My Lord,

My last respects were dated the 9 instant.

While I feel, my Lord, in the fullest extent the extreme delicacy of your situation surrounded by the arts and snares of the most

artful practitioners of the east, I cannot but admire the ease with which you have hitherto baffled their designs, and by the fair and candid proposal of submitting everything to a general meeting of the delegates of all parties avoided that labyrinth of intrigue, jealousy and vexation which would most probably have been generated by any other mode of proceeding. I have long been convinced that the arts of the allies have been greatly controuled by your Lordship's rectitude, while their arms have been invigoiated by your efforts. In a word, then merits are your Lordship's, their vices are their own and I trust the former will, as they hitherto have, predominate so long as your Lordship's rectitude is seconded by a sufficient force to preserve the influence that has hitherto been maintained.

If any member of the alliance had a claim to pre-eminence in the conduct of negotiations, it certainly fell to the superior candor and exertions of your Lordship throughout the confederacy, and it is to me evident that by Appajee Ram's refusing to accede to your Lordship's reasonable proposal of opening his commission to an assembly of deputies and declining to treat but through the mediation of Hurry Punt, there has, as I have long suspected, been a previous illicit correspondence in which objects of exclusive personal and governmental advantages have been held forth to the views of this Court and administration, through the favourable medium of Hurry Punt's and Rasta's channel.

Nor will your Lordship now hesitate to impute the Peshwa's taking the field at so important a crisis to any other than political motives of establishing his weight both in the confederacy and over the enemy, motives that will confirm to your Lordship the necessity of that state of complete force and preparation, which in my late letters I have taken the liberty to mention as equally requisite to reduce the power of the enemy and preserve the balance of the alliance, since your Lordship will have collected from dear bought experience of the Nazim's force that His Hs.'s weight must be derived more from management than efficient power, and that while the Peshwa's object is predominance, his is safety; in a word that the Peshwa is our rival in power, the Nazim a candidate for security, which constitutes a predicament of peculiar delicacy and difficulty.

I was extremely happy to learn that Hurry Punt had at length yielded, tho' unwillingly, to your Lordship's fair proposal of empowering deputies to receive Appajee Ram's proposals and that the failure therein proceeded from the enemy's Minister, since should this Court ever bring forward officially the same subject of making the Peshwa in person the medium of negotiation, which by my late advices your Lordship will perceive the Minister has been lately obliquely agitating, Hurry Punt's conduct on the present occasion may be urged with considerable weight as a future rule of action; and the cause of the failure of negotiation now stands on excellent ground for communication to Sindia, Ragojee Bhosla

and any other powers or members of this empire to whom your Lordship may think proper to communicate it, since by exposing the dangerous aggrandizement and predominance that might be derived to the Peshwa as a biter of the negotiations, it ought to interest them in the success of the fair and equal mode proposed by your Lordship, ultimately assented to by Hurry Punt and which may be tenaciously adhered to on the sanction of that assent from a person vested as he avowedly was with full negotiatory powers.

I have and shall continue to make the requisite use of your Lordship's intimation of the liberty given to Hurry Punt to send his Bunjarras into the Carnatic and advice to send his cavalry into the Barrainaul.

From the suddenness of the Peshwa's taking the field there is an extreme scarcity of conveyance for moving, so that every camel and almost every cart has been pressed by Government. The requisite apparatus for moving is still very incomplete and would necessarily cause much delay at the Kistna, even were it the object of the Minister to move forward at the Dussera; however, about the 8 October camels and bullocks may be expected in great numbers. I have received intelligence but for the authenticity of which I cannot vouch, that Raghojee Bhosla is summoned to attend the Peshwa

**No. 119**—Malet describes his interviews with the Peshwa and his discussions about the latter's going to the front from Wye

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K. G., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

*Camp on the Kristna near Wye, 20th October 1791.*

My Lord,

I had the honor to address your Lordship on the 12 instant.

On the 14 it was intimated to me by Behro Punt through my Munshy that the Peshwa had thoughts of paying a visit to Sao Raja at Satarra about 10 coss hence and my sentiments were desired as to accompanying him, with an observation that several ceremonies would be indispensable and to which the Peshwa himself would be obliged to submit, viz, performing the Koornish or three repeated low obeisances, presenting the Nuzzur and standing till ordered to sit

To this message I replied that as the ceremonies to be observed implied on my part the acknowledgment of a superior power in this state to the Peshwa to whom I was delegated and as such power was unknown to me officially, no provision being made for such a predicament in the powers and instructions furnished me by my own Govt, I begged on a consideration of these points to have B Pt's sentiments on the subject. His opinion in consequence was that my attendance had better be dispensed with.

On the 15 the Peshwa and Minister returned from an excursion to Mahabaleshwar, the source of the Kristna 10 coss from hence, whither they had gone the preceding day and on the 17 I had an audience of the Peshwa at which I expressed my happiness on the occasion of paying my respects to him in camp and my sanguine hope that his taking the field would prove the commencement of a glorious campaign, that as nothing could give me greater pleasure than accompanying him, so would nothing be more satisfactory to your Lordship than his advance in person to support the measures that had been prosecuted and were still prosecuting with so great a vigor by your Lordship, and in which great work you were shortly to be joined by the Nabob's son who, having entered his tents, would advance with Musheeral-Mulk and Sir John Kennaway with all possible speed to share the dangers and the glories of the approaching campaign, that would in all human probability terminate a war to the happy conclusion of which nothing was wanting but the same unanimity in council and in effort with which it had hitherto been conducted

The Minister communicated in a low voice to the Peshwa what I said, but instead of giving me any reply from him told me as from himself that he wished to talk over the subject with me at another interview, to which I replied that as he had constructed the alliance I could not desire a better support of it and that I should be happy to meet him whenever he pleased to consult me on the measure. The afternoon of the next day was appointed and nothing further passed between the Peshwa and me, but the Minister informed me that Bunna Bappo the Maratta officer in the Bednoor quarter had forced the body of the enemy by whom he had been attacked, to retreat

According to agreement I waited on the Minister the 18 and stated very much at large my hopes that the Peshwa would now proceed without delay toward the scene of action, recapitulating in support of my expectation, the cordiality and friendship of your Lordship's whole administration to this Government and the particular merits of your conduct in the course of the present alliance. I laid some stress on my own endeavors through a six years' residence to conciliate his friendship by a uniform attention to the interest of both states and placed in full view the great benefits to this Government in particular that had been derived from your Lordship's Government, through the channel of my Ministry, nor did I omit to enforce my arguments by placing the march of Secunder Jah in the most meritorious point of view.

After hearing with great composure all I had to say and in which I strenuously endeavored to awaken a spark of candid warmth in the Minister's breast, he with his usual circumspection replied that he partook of my pleasure in reviewing the progress of the friendship between the two States during your Lordship's administration, the benefits of which had, he allowed, been great and mutual. He expressed satisfaction on the march of Secunder Jah in the hope that accompanied as he was by



Musheer-al-Mulk and Sir John Kennaway, it would be conducive to the common cause and put the Nabob's equipment on a footing with that of this State, that I might with entire confidence assure your Lordship of his firm resolution to abide faithfully by the terms of the treaty from which there had not hitherto been any deviation on the part of this Court, that thus influenced it had been in agitation to carry the Peshwa toward the scene of action, but that a general view of circumstances had convinced the Darbar of the inexpediency of the measure and led to the resolution of returning as soon as the Peshwa had visited the sacred places in this neighborhood which had been the ostensible cause of his excursion. The circumstances, he added, that induced this resolution were the concurrent testimony from all quarters of the almost total want of forage and extreme scarcity of grain to the south, by which means the Peshwa without adding essentially to the force of the armies about to be employed toward the center of the enemy's country, would only in fact expose himself to difficulties and increase those of the allied armies already equal to every object of the ensuing campaign, and which would not be materially increased by the force with the Peshwa as the greatest part of the troops that usually attended him were already in the field with Hurry Punt.

I observed that as these circumstances were as well known before we left Poona as at present, I thought they were then equally applicable to not moving as now to returning, that should not the Peshwa think proper to approach the scene of action, I imagined much good might be derived from his advance to the southern frontier of this state, thereby to give weight to the alliance and facilitate the forwarding of supplies, that at all events so sudden a return would be wiser than never to have left Poona as the measure was now open at least to constructions unfavorable to the consistency of this Court's conduct, not to mention the foundation laid by it for insidious suggestions of the enemy. I reminded the Minister of the warmth with which for my own regulation and your Lordship's information I had requested him before we left Poona to acquaint me of the real object and extent of the excursion, and how mortifying it must be after the example of candor so constantly set by your Lordship to have reasons now assigned for a sudden return, that were equally obvious and of equal force when no possible fair reason could have existed for involving the movement in doubt and mystery with respect to your Lordship.

The Minister again assured me that when the Peshwa left Poona, his future motions were not determined, but that on the subsequent advices which made him very doubtful even of the practicability of your Lordship's approaching the enemy's capital, his return had been resolved on and was immutable, as to advance would at least be nugatory if not detrimental to the Confederacy.

Whatever cause I might have to complain of previous want of candor, this declaration was at least explicit and seeing no good to be derived from further expostulations, I begged the Minister to let me

know when the Peshwa would commence his retrograde movement, and on this point he was not prepared to satisfy me but said it would be about the Dwallee festival the 27th inst (before which I understand but not from the Minister he will pay his respects to the Raja)

In addition to the above reasons assigned by the Minister for the Peshwa's not proceeding to the scene of action, I was the ensuing day given confidentially to understand that an opinion had been formed from H P's advices that as the present force of this State in the field was sufficient for all the purposes of the war and that as the friendship of the two states scarce admitted an increase by a personal meeting of the Peshwa with your Lordship, a measure pregnant with so many positive difficulties was not to be undertaken in pursuit of objects that scarce afforded a prospect of imaginary good, also that it had been proposed by the Durbar to Hurry Punt and Pursaram Bhaou to obviate as far as possible the difficulties of the approaching campaign, that they should accompany your Lordship with a body of 10,000 horse and 20,000 foot formed from both their armies and in the construction of which a greater number of foot has been chosen to prevent the extreme distress felt by the cavalry in procuring forage, and from a conviction that the above number with the Nabob's quota and the cavalry of your Lordship's army will effectually overpower that of the enemy, while the residue of the two Maratta armies will be beneficially employed in keeping open and protecting the communication and reducing the enemy's garrisons, but that the Minister was doubtful of those chiefs assenting to move with so small an equipment. On the other hand I have learnt by copy of Cap. Little's letter to your Lordship of the 1st inst. received here the 18th, that Bhou starts difficulties and assigns a want of payment of money due from this Durbar, in bar of his moving to the south, which I have represented in strong terms to the Minister and entreated him to take such measures as may deprive that chieftain of all pretence for failing in the public service at so critical and important a period

My last advices from Bombay mention General Abercromby's having sailed for the coast on the 15 inst. with about 500 draft bullocks collected on the island. My purchases exceed 4,000 and will I hope be at Fort Victoria before the expiration of the month

**No. 120**—Malet reports the Peshwa's visit to the Chhatrapati at Satara and their subsequent return to Poona, having finally abandoned the idea of proceeding to the front.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K. G., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

*Camp on the Kristna near Wye, 6th November 1791.*

My Lord,

Agreeable to the intelligence communicated in my last address of the 31 ulto. the Peshwa and the Minister proceeded on the 3 inst. to Sattarra

and the same day paid their respects to the Raja in that fort which is situated on a high and extensive hill about 10 coss hence. On the 4th they returned to camp which had been left standing.

2 On the 5th the Minister invited me to an entertainment at one of his family seats in the village of Menollce close to the camp, when with an appearance of great satisfaction he communicated and congratulated me on the capture of Nundydroog by storm about 10th ulto., an event that on many considerations gave me infinite pleasure and on which, as highly conducive to the honor of your Lordship's arms, I beg you to accept my most hearty felicitations. At the same meeting the Minister acquainted me that the Peshwa would make a short movement the 7th inst and proceed the 8th toward Poona, but that his progress would be lengthened by the temples of eminence near his route, so that I have now, my Lord, to relinquish with infinite concern every hope that my sanguine wishes had led me to form of paying my personal respects to your Lordship amidst those important scenes on which you are now entering and which will I doubt not be equally glorious and decided

P S —As the court's correspondence with H Pt is very quick by the Dawk established from Poona to the army and as Buchajee Punt always benefited by our Dawk till this court's was established, I beg to suggest your Lordship's taking advantage of thens in cases where early intelligence to me may be requisite

**No. 121** This is a letter addressed by the Peshwa to the G G on the conduct of the war in which the tone of superiority on the part of the Peshwa becomes obvious.

FROM—THE PESHWA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

*Translate of a letter from the Peshwa to the Governor General in answer to his Lordship's letter of 6 Sept. last, recd from the Durbar 22 November and forwarded to the Governor General's Persian Interpreter the same day*

22 November 1791.

Your Lordship's letter has been received and its contents (here follows a recapitulation) minutely understood

On the first discovery of the evil disposition of the enemy in his hostile designs to (disgrace) the friendly English Company, your Lordship, not looking on the resentment thereof as a light and easy matter, entered into engagements with our mighty State and confirmed them by treaty, and having weighed well the means of prosecuting this great undertaking from the beginning to the end in the scales of deliberation and foresight, commenced the war with all possible courage and bravery. The obligations of friendship and alliance have also been discharged in the

most happy manner by our mighty State and are discharging, on which subject there is no necessity to enlarge

And as our world-supporting State is day and night employed in devising the best and most feasible means of bringing the great undertaking to an happy issue, which is at all times the foremost object of our condescending mind, doubtless you have received confidence and assurance from your knowledge thereof

In the prosecution of this disposition the noble Hurry Pundit and Pursaram Pundit were dispatched with respectable armies and becoming apparatus to the south of the Tumbudra, and tho' from frequent experience we have learnt that the continuance of our armies during the rains in the Carnatic country inevitably destroys our cavalry, notwithstanding all this our chiefs agreeable to your Lordship's advice remained there and looking upon the numberless difficulties they encountered as recreation, are to this day cheerfully employed in the labors and dangers of the war Can your Lordship then do otherwise than communicate in the most confidential manner your secrets to our mighty chiefs and can your Lordship look on the interests of our august State otherwise than on those of the Company?

Your Lordship may likewise perceive that on our part to the utmost of our power we are most sincerely employed agreeable to the terms of our engagements in devising the best means and prosecuting them in the best manner without concealment or evasion, and that we are most heartily disposed to increase the good friendship that subsists

It was Appajee Ram's wish to reside in the army and commence his negotiations with the Chiefs, but as you did not approve that the enemy's Vackeel should be admitted agreeable to his desire to declare personally to the (delegates) of the three states the proposals of his master and as he would not accede to your Lordship's proposals, he returned to his master. This was represented by Hurry Pundit and has been now clearly understood from your letters. By the grace of God our unanimity in the prosecution of the present great undertaking is so firm and cordial, that difference and estrangement are inadmissible. From the tenor of your Lordship's correspondence with Appajee Ram which has been delivered to our mighty presence by Mr Malet, it appears that Appajee Ram desired a meeting. Had that meeting taken place it is highly probable that the enemy's intentions relative to an accommodation with the three states would have been discovered and the firm union of the allies already so well-known to the enemy been more strongly impressed on his mind. At all events as long as the three States are sincerely united in the present undertaking, it does not signify(?) Particulars have been written to Hurry Pundit and communicated to Mr Malet. From the verbal communications of the former and the written ones of the latter you will understand everything. Rejoice me with your letters.

**No. 122**—Malet conveys to the G. G. the correct title that the Peshwa desired to be used in correspondence with him.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—G. F. CHERRY, ESQUIRE, PERSIAN INTERPRETER,

*Poona, 16th December 1791.*

Sir,

A desire has been signified me by this Durbar that the present form of address used by his Lordship the Governor General to the Peshwa may be relinquished in favour of the one formerly used. I understand this requisition to have arisen from His Lordship's having from a motive doubtless of doing the Peshwa greater honour lately used in his address the titles granted to him (the Peshwa) by Sha Alum. But as the word Furzund (son) is included therein, the Munshy of this Court of whose captious and litigious spirit I have frequently had reason to complain, has taught his superiors who understand not a syllable of Persian that the word Furzund used in the address applies to the Peshwa as coming from his Lordship.

Whatever may be this Court's motive in desiring it, I humbly presume His Lordship will have no difficulty in resuming his former style of address in lieu of one that has been adopted merely in the idea of its being more honorable and more acceptable.

Should the Peshwa's style of address to the Governor General have been at any period more respectful than at present I need not observe to you that there could not be a fitter opportunity than the present for noticing it.

P.S.—You will perceive that I have opened and perused the letter from the Peshwa to the Governor General.

**No. 123**—Malet conveys to the G. G. his own impression of the dilatory tactics of the Maratha Court and of their desire to protect Tipu from complete annihilation.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS.

*Poona, 16th December 1791*

Some circumstances of a secret nature that have lately come to my knowledge induce me to think that this Court will be better pleased with such a delay of the war as may check the ascendancy which the superior force and exertions of your Lordship have fixed in the Confederacy, than with the complete establishment of that ascendancy by such a further progress of your Lordship's arms as might threaten the enemy's existence, whom I am inclined to believe the allies would rather impress with a

persuasion of owing his preservation to their indulgence than see him deprived of it by our power, of which power an active faction seizes every opportunity of exciting the most lively jealousy in this Court, whose narrow genius I am sorry to say is but too susceptible of such impressions, notwithstanding all my endeavors by my conversation and the most studied conciliation in the conduct of myself and all my party to counteract it

The only feasible mode by which the above objects of this Court can be prosecuted will be by the introduction of delays, of which your Lordship on the spot will be the best judge in the execution of your plans, since this Court has adopted it as a maxim that, tho' invincible in arms, we sink under the pressure of protracted expense, and I attribute to an artful design of sounding me on this point some late oblique advances that have been conveyed to me but to which I have given no encouragement, to hearken to any proposals that the enemy may communicate through the Rasta family, and in my humble opinion what is mentioned in Sir John Kennaway's letter to your Lordship of the 14 ulto. of a pecuniary proposal from the enemy to the Nazim is of the same complexion. Indeed I apprehend various arts and expedients will be resorted to by both branches of the alliance to collect the extent of your Lordship's views with respect to the prosecution of the war or the terms of a peace of which they would take the utmost advantage in their intercourse with the enemy.

I learn from Mahadji Sindia's people here that Chitore has surrendered to their master who had engaged to deliver it to the Ranna, but that contrary thereto the new garrison is partly composed of his troops under pretence of strengthening the Ranna's Government.

**No. 124**—Malet reports to the G. G. the Peshwa's desire to send some presents to the King and the Company of England and also expresses the jealousy of the Poona Court at the British ascendancy in the war

FROM—C W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS K G., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

*Poona, 16th December 1791.*

My Lord,

I had the honor to address you the 25 ulto.

In answer to the enquiries I have mentioned my intention of making relative to the horse said to have been raised by the Rasta Family for Tippe, Behro Punt has assured me that he thinks the report groundless But Sir John Kennaway's enquiries agreeable to the clue furnished in my last may throw further light on it.

I have pleasure in acquainting your Lordship that 4077 bullocks and 2750 drivers have been dispatched from here to fort Victoria for General Abercromby and advices from that place of the 30 ulto. mention that 2300 had sailed from thence for Cannanore.

Having intimated to this Court that sundry curiosities for the Peshwa sent by the Honorable the Court of Directors at the suggestion of your Lordship are arrived at Bombay, much satisfaction was expressed thereon and, in consequence of the stress I have laid on these instances of your Lordship's constant solicitude to promote the good understanding of the two States and of the good disposition of the Government at home to second your Lordship's wishes that only can be effected by a sincerity of good will and a reciprocity of good offices, the Minister yesterday signified to me the Peshwa's intention of sending by the ship now under dispatch from B'bay some curiosities of this country to his Majesty and to the Honorable Company as tokens of his respect and regard for His Majesty's person, the Company's Government and the British nation, I have in consequence requested the Bombay Govt to inform me of the practicability of the articles in question (amongst which are an elephant, a rhinoceros, an horse, some antelopes and other animals) being accommodated on the Raymond.

**No. 125**—This is a copy of a letter sent for information to the Resident at Poona by the Governor of Bombay, explaining what accommodation would be required to despatch the presents of large animals offered by the Peshwa to H. M. the King of England.

FROM—THE CAPTAIN OF A SHIP SAILING FOR ENGLAND ;  
TO—THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

*Bombay, 26th January 1792.*

Honourable Sir,

Agreeable to your orders of the 25th I shall endeavour to accommodate the animals intended to be sent for his Britannic Majesty in the best manner the ship will admit, but at present it is impossible for me to ascertain whether they all can be accommodated with that safety and to your satisfaction that I could wish, unless some idea could be formed of the sizes of their different cages and the necessary room they would occupy. From as near a calculation as I can make, their stock of water and provisions for the passage home will be one hundred tons, which I hope you will consider as surplus to the ship. I likewise beg leave to inform you that animals of a large size cannot be put below, and that a leopard from the filth naturally attending it, is equally inadmissible between decks, as well as danzerous, and requires proper keepers to

attend them, that even on the upper deck animals of that bulk must be much in the way . . . bad weather and exposed to danger, but on my part you may depend upon every care being taken of them in order that they may be safely landed in England

**No. 126**—Malet severely comments upon the proposal of the Resident of Hyderabad to secure the safety of the Nizam against Maratha encroachments. He turns down the proposal as it was opposed to the policy laid down by the G. G. with the sanction of the Co.'s Board.

FROM—THE RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—LIEUT. WILLIAM STEUART, ASSISTANT TO THE RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

*Poona, 22nd February 1792*

Sir,

I have been duly favoured with your letter of the 15th instant and with the best intention in the world to enter into any amicable discussion with respect to either of our Courts that might be productive of useful knowledge, find that, after agreeing as we seem perfectly to do in acknowledging and lamenting the Nabob's weakness, little is left that can with propriety come under our discussion

For as to the mode you suggest remedying the vices of His Highness's Government by the introduction of our forces and our influence into his State, destitute as I am of those means which you may possess of judging how agreeable such an idea may be to the Nabob, his heirs, his ministers, and to all those concerned in his Government, I may safely refer you for full information on this important speculation to the spirit of all the late acts of Parliament, to the orders of the Court of Directors, to Lord Cornwallis's letter to the Nabob of the 7th July 1789 and to others in which Sir John Kennaway has been directed not only not to encourage any such advances but positively to discourage all language on the part of Nabob or his ministers that might point to misunderstanding with this State, and I doubt not you have had frequent occasions to remark the wisdom and necessity of the precaution. After reference to such materials as these, it may be superfluous to add those on the same subject that are dispersed throughout my correspondence with Sir John Kennaway.

But if the whole tenor of that correspondence and of my addresses to the Governor-General have failed in conveying to you my sentiments (on this point in particular) of the general views and genius of this court on which subject you seem to regret my silence, I confess to you that I should despair of success by troubling you with a recapitulation

It seems extraordinary that when in your address of the 2nd ultimo to the Governor General the Nabob himself avows having placed so great a confidence in the Mahratha force as to curtail his usual and



necessary equipment from reliance thereon, disclaims Mahratha influence, assumes the character of being their influencer and asserts his object to be that of pleasing his Lordship the Governor General, you should in the 5 paragraph of your letter to me of the 15th instant think it necessary to build a defence of His Highness's failure in asserting his weight and dignity in the Confederacy on an acquiescence in the supposed wishes of the Mahrathas, so obsequious as to be not only more incompatible with his weight and dignity than even the failure itself, but with that pursuit of His Lordship's good will and all the other motives by which His Highness himself pretends to have been hitherto regulated and declares that he will be regulated in future

The allegations of the Bhau's having introduced this force into the Nabob's defenceless new conquests appear to me wanting in the ascertainment necessary to the formation of a decided opinion and for our pointed interference at present, even should interference at all be advisable. In the meantime, I hope, the promised letters from the Minister of this state mentioned in your's to Lord Cornwallis of 15, will, properly supported by Dara Jah's 6000 men, produce a satisfactory settlement of those points. For I cannot help viewing the smallest incident that may be productive of new embarrassment to his Lordship but with a most jealous, I may say suspicious eye, and without pretending to decide on the greater degree of blame of the Bhau's encroachment (for I am not yet a sufficient judge of the affair to call it treachery) or His Highness's weakness, I very well know that both can have recourse to very crooked means to effect very crooked purposes.

Though I have here endeavoured to reply to such part of your letter of the 15th as I thought might be acceptable and requisite for your personal notice, yet as I am persuaded that His Lordship cannot require the assistance of this letter for the regulation of his judgment and that the repetitions of matter with which he is already so fully acquainted, would only be an unnecessary interruption of his more important avocations, I have not sent him a copy but should you be of a different opinion I enclose a spare one to be used at your discretion

**No. 127—**The Gover. Gen asks Palmer to accompany Mahadji Sindia to Poona.

FROM—SECRETARY TO GOVT ,

TO—SIR C. W MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 24 February 1792*

Information having been received from Major Palmer, at Agra, of his having had certain intelligence that Mahajee Sindia under the pretence of visiting the Durga of Shaik Munsoor had entered his tents in order to commence his journey from Ogeine to Poona, I am directed by the

Governor General in Council to acquaint you, that he has been instructed to join Sindia wherever he might be, and in the event of his proceeding to the Deccan, to accompany him thither.

**No. 128**—Malet tries to divine the motives of Sindia in coming to the south, and affirms his readiness to meet the situation that would develop.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—MAJOR PALMER, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA

*Poona, 29 February 1792.*

The principal purpose of this despatch is to convey to you the enclosed account of the glorious victory gained by his Lordship the Governor General over Tippoo under the walls of Seringaputtun on the 6th instant and what further has passed here relative to Sindia's visit to this place and your accompanying him which is detailed in the continuation of my letters to Lord Cornwallis since my last despatch of the 14th instant.

I this day hear that Sindia has actually crossed the Nerbudda. The news is from his Vakil's quarters, of course neither to be entirely rejected nor credited. It appears to me that he either wants to take advantage of the times to carry his points with this court independent of all concern in the affairs of the alliance, to introduce himself into those affairs to the promotion of his own distinct interests, or his coming is at the invitation of Nana in support of the weight of the state. I need not observe that in neither case except the first which is the least likely and even the last cannot be indifferent to us, can his coming be without a prospect of embarrassment to us, but I have a firm hope of steering clear of this rock as we have hitherto of all others open or concealed, by his Lordship's successes reducing matters previous to his arrival to such a state as to enable us with entire freedom from the influence of coercion to manifest our generosity by conceding to others and our power by asserting our own rights.

It may be acceptable to you to know that Tippoo disavowed the capitulation of Coimatore and asserted that the garrison were prisoners of war. He seems to be completely verifying the old axiom that the Gods first stupify those whom they mean to punish.

**No. 129**—Malet interprets to Palmer the import of Sindia's advent into the Deccan and advises him steadily to pursue and support the true honor of his own country and Govt.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER, RESIDENT WITH MAHADJEE SINDHIA.

*Poona, 20 March 1792.*

Dear Sir,

I hope that my last despatches of the 29th ult., and 12th inst. will have reached and conveyed to you the intelligence of the glorious victory

of 6 February and of its important consequences in the conclusion of an honourable peace, the preliminary articles of which I have now the pleasure to enclose and to congratulate you on that great and happy event

I take the liberty likewise of troubling you with some other materials extracted from the public papers elucidatory of the occurrences before and after the termination of hostilities with respect to the views of various parties and the prevention of all foreign intrusion (so) as to add greatly to my happiness on the occasion particularly with respect to your chieftain whose visit to this place, should he carry it now into execution, will be comparatively innocent, since interference in the conclusion of the war being at an end, I hope the balance of power between him and this state will not be so far destroyed as to give him or it that absolute ascendancy which by removing check or control, must immediately become the object of our most vigilant observance

For the general history of this Empire and the particular one of the M S ought to convince us that nothing is secure from their ambition that is within the compass of their power rendered of late still more formidable by their investiture with all those pretensions which the Patell's policy has derived from the source of the Imperial authority which by your news-papers and others I understand he has very recently been endeavouring to use as an instrument for making encroachments in the Subhas of Burhanpore and Akbarabad or Oude and Gorakhpore as per accompanying extracts But on these points and his object in inviting Ragojee Bhosla and the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan to a meeting you will be able to form a better judgment than me (I)

It is reported by some of the Patel's dependents that a negotiation between their master and the Nabob for an exchange of territory is on foot, in consequence of the former's desire of possessing Bheer and therewith the mausoleum of his Mahomedan Saint Sha-Munsoor. Thus we see the Patel's spiritual and temporal views all terminate in the same point and I dare say by the same rule that he is so fond of possessing Bheer the burial place of his Mahomedan Saint, he would have no objection to Benares the pure object of the Hindoo part of his devotion

The spiritual and temporal coalition that the Patel has effected with Mahommedan Faith and Mahommedan power is really curious. Temporally he is the Wackelat-Mutluck and exalted son of Shah Allum, spiritually the devoted disciple of the holy saints Sha-Hubeeb and Sha-Munsoor

At Hyderabad the reason assigned for his visiting the Deccan is to prostrate himself at the tomb of the last of those holy saints at Poona, to adore the divinity of Joteba near Kolapore

You will have learnt from my late despatches that my idea of the Patel's views had led me into apprehension of our being drawn into the vortex

of the differences that in the event of his coming here would probably ensue between him and this court, and I think your recollection of the misrepresentation we were subjected to on a former occasion while it will have convinced you that my fears were not groundless, will have prepared you as they have me, to be most carefully guarded against the dangers of our situation in the event of our courts falling in the above predicament

The best way to avoid danger of any kind is certainly by its clear exposure to view and in having made the attempt I hope, I shall have merited your approbation and have prepared you for an early acquiescence in resolving to suffer no discordant circumstances of our respective courts to interrupt the union and cordiality of our endeavours to elucidate their objects, develop their designs, and through all the intricacies of their policy steadily and unanimously pursue and support the true honour and interest of our own country and Government

By the advices contained in your favor of the 1st of your intended movements, I presume my next advices may be of your arrival at Ougen

**No. 130**—Cornwallis informs Malet of the reply he gave to Haripant Phadke requesting British mediation in case Mahadji Sindia threw off his allegiance to the Poona Court.

FROM—LORD CORNWALLIS,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET, BART., RESIDENT AT THE COURT OF POONA.

*Camp near Seringapatam, 2 April 1792*

I have lately had some private conversation with Hurry Punt relative to the kind of mediation which the Court of Poona wished us to undertake in disputes that might arise between their Government and the Nizam as well as in regard to Mhadjee Sindia

Azeem-ul-Omra the Nizam's Minister who is likewise very desirous of our interference, and who means to make the same request, was acquainted by Hurry Punt of his intention of applying to us, and was very anxious I should talk with Hurry Punt upon the subject.

The business respecting the Nizam is not yet in sufficient forwardness to render it necessary for me to enter into any detailed account of it; I shall only say that I mean to give each of them an answer in writing and that it will be very cautiously worded.

On the second point Hurry Punt after a good deal of circumlocution and strong expressions that he did not believe the case was ever likely to happen, asked me whether if Sindia should so far forget himself and his dependence upon the Mahratta State as to oblige the Peshwa to have

recourse to strong measures, we should consider ourselves as bound by our connexion with that Chief to afford him any support

I did not hesitate in reply to this question to assure Hurry Punt that if the case he supposed should actually happen, which I thought the late peace rendered highly improbable, that the British Government would in no degree interfere except by an offer of a friendly mediation, and as a proof how little I was disposed to encourage a disrespectful conduct in the Mahatta Chiefs towards the head of that state, I informed him of the directions I had lately given you in relation to Major Palmer.

He then requested that you should have no communication on these two points with Behro Punt but that you should address yourself directly to the Minister only or to himself after his return to Poona

As I concluded that he would not have proposed to have set aside the intermediate agency of Behro Punt in these instances without the approbation of Nanna Furneese and as I saw no possible objection to it on our part, I promised to send you the instructions he desired

**No. 131**—Cornwallis announces to the Peshwa the end of the war and the consequent friendship of the allied states who fought together in arms.

FROM—LORD CORNWALLIS,

TO—THE PESHWA

*Camp near Koongul, 15 April 1792*

I doubt not but a letter which I some time since had the honour to write you on the subject of the cessation of arms between the allies and Tippo Sultan agreeable to the preliminary articles will have reached you

At this happy period by the faithful and unanimous efforts of the allies the conditions of the preliminary articles have been manifested to the world as the foundation (agreeable to the forms of the rulers of the earth) of a perpetual friendship and a specific treaty has been entered into with Tippo Sultan ratified with the seals and signatures of each of the allies engaged in the war.

After which the armies of the allies having diverted their victorious standards from the walls of Seringaputtum proceeded several marches happy in each other's company, and I enjoyed every gratification that friendship can afford in Hurry Punt's society in so much that a moment's absence was as that of a year But sacrificing my own gratification to the impatience you must necessarily experience to see and receive from him an account of the war, I submitted to the necessity of separation and we accordingly parted at Koongul in such a manner as was suitable to our friendship and the intercourse of eminent personages, preserving all the forms of friendly and ceremonious presents and proceeded to our respective

countries And having removed the military stores and provisions laid up in the several forts to be restored by treaty to Tippoo, I shall proceed toward the Carnatic Knowing that your benevolence will experience the highest pleasure in learning that the miseries to which so large a part of mankind has been lately subjected, are at an end, I trouble you with this letter and beg leave to refer you for further particulars to Sir C. W. Malet and to Hurry Pundit Bhadur I hope you will look on me as your sincere friend and rejoice me with your friendly letters

**No. 132**—Malet writing to Palmer dilates on Sindhia's designs and intrigues in his visit to Poona, and on the impropriety of the former's accompanying him. Malet finds Sindhia extremely unfathomable and expects the British to serve as a check on the dangerous genius of the Maratha Empire, lest they should establish their own paramount power in India

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER, RESIDENT WITH MHADJEE SINDIA

*Poona, 15th April 1792*

I had the pleasure to write to you the 20th ultimo and on the 13 inst was favoured with yours of the 31st ultimo from Bilsa

My idea of the prudence of protracting your progress to this capital was founded on my own apprehension of probable difficulties corroborated by Lord Cornwallis's instructions to you of 26th August 1789 and of the Board mentioned in your letter of 18th January last to wait further instructions at Ugen, consequently implying a doubt of the propriety of your advancing to Poona and confirmed by a conviction that no possible evil could arise from the delay, while the certain good might be effected of avoiding speculative evils by gaining time for the arrival of positive instructions

Had I yielded to the influence of personal gratification in the pleasure of your company, I should have urged your advance more earnestly than on public grounds I suggested your delay. But the unusual solicitude with which Sindhea requested your attendance in a situation less connected, it should seem, with the objects of your ministry than in his former movements in the north, in which he seems to have been less anxious for your presence, conveyed to my mind the danger of his designing to convert our relative situations to the purposes of his intrigues and of implicating us therein, contrary to the genius and spirit of our system and to the letters of the orders of the Secret Committees of the court of Directors to the Governor General of 21st July 1786 In a word, I thought that your attendance on Sindhea at this court would endanger the imputation of futility or (which would be worse) lead to the formation of a party, an idea that derives some strength from Lt. Steuart's suggestion that Sindhea would endeavour to convert your presence to the exclusive assumption of

the management of our affairs with this court, which would at once involve a question of the utmost political danger and delicacy and constitute in a moment that party and those perils which Lt Steurt professes not to see, but which by my letter of 29th February to Lord Cornwallis you will have observed were clearly perceived and strongly apprehended by this court.

Through the whole of my correspondence you will have perceived that my grand object is at once to keep up if possible the distinction of interest between this court and its great members to which there is an undeviating tendency in the organization of the empire, and to avoid implications in any intrigues between the parties, and though I might multiply quotations of my sentiment on this head, I will rest satisfied with the single one of my letter to the Governor General so long ago as 23rd December 1789 from which I have not yet seen any reason to depart

Since troubling you and Government with my sentiments relative to your advance to this place in which I have as fairly as I could stated the arguments that occurred pro and con, I have received a letter from Mr. Subsecretary Fombelle advising your being ordered to join Sindhia wherever he may be of which I enclose a copy. This order seems to have been issued in the interval of the former one for your stopping at Ugin and of the arrival of what in my late letter I have taken the liberty to suggest, and whatever effect those suggestions may have on the future measures of Government, we shall at least have the satisfaction of feeling that no principle of duty nor any object of public good will have been affected by giving time for the arrival of the order mentioned by Mr. Fombelle that is to supercede the former ones of August 89 and the last relative to your stopping at Ugin

Feeling as I most forcibly do with you the impropriety of Mr. Steuart's interference in the discussion of speculative points confined solely to our respective stations, I have been deterred from troubling his Lordship at this very busy time with a particular analysis of his dissertations by the conviction that the knowledge and wisdom of his Lordship and the Board could require no aid to discover their inaccuracies, which if admissible at all, tend more strongly than anything I have advanced, to establish the danger of the Patell's designs and intrigues at this court.

I acquit him, however, in the adoption and management of the controversy of any ill intention, and for our more clear information on the subject I take the liberty to enclose copy of what he has written, which will I hope induce you to acquiesce in the palliative construction I have put upon his conduct in my letter to the Governor General of 6th instant; while to prevent further bad consequences of his precipitancy, I will confine your strictures on what has passed to my own knowledge

Whether Sindhia's views extended to an intention of benefiting by interference in the late negotiations for the settlement of a peace or not,

is now happily become a mere matter of conjecture and must remain so, with only those lights to direct our surmises which have occurred in the course of his progress. That he will now direct his attention to the recall of Holcar and Ally Bahadur from interference in his views in the north is I think very likely. But his success in these objects and in the necessary ascendancy it may be requisite previously to establish over the administration here, will, I presume, be greatly affected by the freedom from embarrassment that this ministry will derive from the honourable conclusion of the war with Tippo and the reunion of its force by the return of Haripunt, and you will perceive by the accompanying continuation of my correspondence with Ld C that the Minister is not inattentive to putting his force on a respectable footing.

It is difficult to decide what part the Patell may now take. Should his observation of affairs here lead him to abandon the design of an authoritative prosecution of his views, he may in that case find it necessary to adopt a new line and by a show of obsequiousness and obedience to gain some such ostensible marks of distinction as grants of territory, as may enable him to return to the north without any visible diminution of authority or dignity, which will I hope continue at least during his life equal to our object of serving as an occasional check on the dangerous genius of this empire and the ambitious views of this court,—of which be assured, no man has a more lively idea than myself, nor a clearer conviction that the security of its neighbours rests on its want of executive power, which want must in a greater measure rest on the interest and ability of the great members to accomplish the too extensive and the too firm establishment of the paramount power.

I apprehend that the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan's interests are closely connected with the future conduct of Sindia, since should he (S) adopt a decided authoritative language to this administration, he will find it necessary to gain the Nabob by civility and conciliation. on the contrary should he think proper to solicit the Peshwa's good graces, he may find encroachment on the Nabob no bad mode of paying his court here. But whatever line he may pursue, I hope, it will neither lead to the uncontrollable ascendancy of his influence over the state or of the state over him, by which my abovementioned apprehension of unchecked power would be established.

I presume that ere this can reach you, you will be executing the orders of Government to join Sindia and it is a considerable addition to the personal pleasure I promise myself in meeting you, that the previous development of the official dangers we had to apprehend, will have prepared us for a careful avoidance of all those circumstances at our respective courts, that might have disturbed our official harmony and you may rest assured that the only contest in which I shall be ambitious of bearing the palm will be that of friendship and good offices and the



only precedence that I shall be ever solicitous for anywhere, will be that of deserving well myself or of acknowledging and yielding to the worth of others

I have sent hercarras to Sindea's camp to endeavour to find out your intelligence and desire him to furnish me with occasional notice of what he may learn of the Patell's views and motions but hitherto without success Should you think proper to direct him to let me know where to find him, I will contrive to keep up a regular intercourse with him

I have private letters advising that the definitive treaty having been finally settled and the last payment of the first assignment paid, the confederate armies moved from Puttun the 26th ult, the sons of Tippu still remaining with Lord Cornwallis I have not yet received the definitive treaty but from the time that has elapsed may expect it every moment The Bombay detachment that acted with the Murrattas during the war joined General Abercromby to proceed to Tellichery From Sindea's letter to you mentioned in your last and the reports now circulated here, I think his coming here at least for some time very doubtful Nizamally Khan has been indisposed and talks of returning very soon to Hyderabad. I enclose the only Europe News by Lt. Hunter from England via Bussora to Bombay as late as 28th November, and am with great regard and esteem

**No. 133**—The Court of Directors were pleased with the preparation of a history of the Marathas which Malet had taken in hand and of similar sketches by Kennaway at Hyderabad. Malet also prepared a Political and Historical Glossary

FROM—THE HON'BLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS,  
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

*London, 25th April 1792.*

We are pleased to find by your last political despatch of the 4th August 1791, that the long protracted negotiation with the Court of Poonah relative to the principality of Gingerah, is brought to a conclusion, by the acceptance, on the part of Balloo Meah, of a compensation from the Marattah Government, for resigning the same. Sir Charles Malet appears to have arranged this business with his usual ability, and in his refusal of the lac of Rupees offered him by the Minister on executing the instrument, has given a becoming proof of his disinterestedness and integrity.

We have perused with attention the correspondence with the Residents of Poonah and Hyderabad referred to in this and in your last despatch of the 4th August 1791. Altho' we have no particular instructions to give you at present upon the different subjects of this correspondence, it was certainly right in you to draw our attention thereto We must

observe however, that we feel perfectly satisfied with the manner in which Sir Charles Malet and Sir John Kennaway discharge the important duties of their respective stations.

It is with much pleasure we acknowledge the information we have received at different times, from the perusal of the correspondence of Sir Charles Warre Malet our Resident at Poonah and we have been anxiously expecting the History of the Maratta Empire compiled by that gentleman, and said from time to time to be transmitted to you, but which has not been entered on your consultations excepting only two or three short sketches. We therefore direct, that you transmit, without delay, the history above alluded to, so far as you have received it, and that you signify our wish to Sir Charles Warre Malet, that he will, as soon as his other important avocations will admit, bring down the History of the Marattas to as late a period as possible, being convinced from the specimens, that the compilation of the work, while it will redound to the honor of Sir C W Malet, will afford us an ample and satisfactory fund of information. We should also be happy to receive the Political and Historical Glossary mentioned in Sir C W Malet's letter to you entered on your secret consultations of the 16th July 1787, and upon this occasion, we cannot but acknowledge the pleasure we have received from a perusal of some similar sketches, relative to the Nizam, by Sir John Kennaway, and we direct that you communicate our wishes to that gentleman for his completing those sketches, in the manner we have before directed with regard to Sir Charles Warre Malet's History of the Marattas. And it would also be highly gratifying to us, to receive, if procurable, similar accounts respecting all the other Native Powers of Hindostan.

The exertions of the Residents at the respective Courts of Poonah and Hyderabad towards supplying the wants of either army as contained in the proceedings to which you have referred us, are entitled to our warmest approbation. (The rest of the letter missing)

**No. 134**—Malet informs Palmer that Bahiropant was distrusted by the Poona Court.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—MAJOR PALMER,

*Poona, 25th April 1792.*

Dear Sir,

I hope that my last dispatch of the 20th will have reached you ere this can.

The enclosed copies of my last letter to and from his Lordship the Gov.-Genl. will explain the cause of this quick repetition of troubling you

The greater part of the 77 Regt is arrived at B'bay and Gen. Abercromby is expected there about the end of the month as he was to leave Cannanore the 20th inst. Capt. Little is also arrived at Bombay and his Battn gone on to Surat where he is to command

B P has been pressing me again in person on the part of the Minister on the subject of your advance since my last letter to Ld C but by his Lordship's of the 2nd you will perceive I am reduced to a state of silence in his presence by which means Hurrypunt will become the sole channel of communication between his Lordship and the Minister at least till the question of the annihilation or continuance of B. P.'s agency is decided,—a question of much delicacy and some importance to our affairs here.

**No. 135**—The G G directs that Palmer's accompanying Mahadji Sindhia to Poona should be regulated by the wishes of the Poona Court.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,  
TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET.

*Camp near Venkatagiri, 12th May 1792.*

Sir,

I received yesterday your letter dated the 23rd ultimo

The account which I gave you in my letter of the 2nd of April of the conversation that passed between Hurry Punt and myself was perfectly correct, the name of Mhadjee Sindia was first mentioned by him and it is only in regard to the circumstance of Major Palmer's going to Poona that I have not conveyed to you exactly the spirit of every thing that passed on my part at the interview

In my letter of the 2nd April I only referred generally to my letter of the 28th of March, which you did not understand in the light of so explicit a direction to prevent the Major's coming to Poona as I meant to convey, in the event of your having reason to believe that it would occasion any considerable uneasiness to the Peshwa's Government; for that was the light in which I stated it to Hurry Punt giving it as a proof of the respect that I thought was due to the head of the Maratta State, notwithstanding our old friendship and connexion with Mhadjee Sindia

Upon a reperusal of my letter of the 28th of March I find that your misapprehension of my meaning has been owing to my expressions not having been very pointed, but to confess the truth, I was rather less attentive to that business as I concluded that the peace would have put an end to any idea of Sindia's visiting Poona, except with the cordial approbation of Nana Furnaveese.

Having therefore stated to Hurry Punt the instructions that I sent to you respecting Major Palmer's going to Poona in a stronger and more positive light than the literal construction of my letter of the 28th March fully authorised you to conceive, it would be inconvenient that the measure should afterwards in any degree be forced upon the Poona Durbar and you must therefore in concert with Major Palmer regulate your conduct accordingly. If Sindia does not make his visit till after the rains we shall have time to communicate further on the subject, and in all probability by that time the circumstances may be very materially altered.

When I imposed the prohibition respecting Behroo Punt, I naturally concluded that Hurry Punt had at least the approbation of Nana Furnaveese for making the request, but as it appears clearly from the late conduct of the latter that he had no participation in the plan, and that he still considers Behroo Punt as the regular and only channel of confidential intercourse between you and the Durbar on all points without exception, I agree with you that the present restriction might occasion great embarrassment to you and therefore desire that you will consider it as entirely removed, acquainting Hurry Punt from me if he should speak to you on the subject, that Behroo Punt had already by the Minister's desire breached the business to you, and that so long as Nana Furnaveese continued to employ him confidentially, I thought you could not without giving offence to the Minister and without great inconvenience to our respective Governments, decline to deliver your sentiments through him, or in his presence upon every point that may come under discussion.

I likewise perfectly coincide in opinion with you that we have every reason to be satisfied with the general conduct of Behroo Punt, the channel of intercourse between our and the Poona Government, and I desire to be understood that however favourably I may in some respects be inclined towards Hurry Punt I have not the most distant wish to promote any of the ambitious or intriguing views of himself or his party and should be utterly averse to favour any design that he may have in view of supplanting Behroo Punt in his official situation as Durbar Agent for transacting all public business with you.

With regard to Behroo Punt personally, I have no objection to your giving him the strongest assurances of my being extremely well disposed towards him, but the manner of showing him any particular mark of favour or kindness must depend upon circumstances that may occur hereafter.

The reference to our mediation which was talked of by Hurry Punt and Azeem-ul-Omrah, remains in the same state as when I wrote to you on the 2nd of April, both parties were requested by me to state in writing the grounds of their expectations but the armies separated without their having resumed the subject.

**No. 136**—Cornwallis asks Malet to assure Nana of British support at Benares if he should retire to that place owing to differences with Sindia.

FROM—EARL CORNWALLIS.

TO—C. W. MALET.

*Camp 10th Miles east of Amboor, May 18th 1792.*

Sir,

Since I wrote to you on the 12th instant I have received your letters dated the 27th and 30th of April, and your private letter of the former date

The answer to all of them is nearly anticipated by my letter of the 12th, and I have only to add on the subject of Major Palmer that I should very much approve of his remaining at Jamgaum in the event of Sindia's proceeding to Poona

It would give me much concern if Nana Furnaveese or Behroo Punt should think it prudent to retire from the scene of business in which they are engaged, but if serious application should be made to you by either or both of them, you will give them the strongest and most unqualified promises of the most kind and friendly reception at Benares and you may assure the Minister, that the British Nation will not easily forget the able and cordial co-operation which he gave on his part towards forming the union between the two States which has already been productive of so great advantages to both.

**No. 137**—Malet forwards to Palmer Cornwallis's instructions for regulating his conduct and informs him of two agents of Mahadja Sindia having gone to Bombay for making purchases.

FROM—C. W. MALET

TO—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER.

*Poona, 2 June 1792.*

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure to write you on the 28th ultimo since which I have received a letter from Lord Cornwallis in answer to mine of the 23rd which being highly necessary to the regulation of your conduct, I enclose copy as also of my last address to His Lordship

Two Europeans belonging to Sindia arrived here with Bhou Furnaveese named Derrival and Dalton, to whom agreeable to Ramjee Patell's request I have granted a passport to proceed to make some purchases at Bombay They desired a meeting with me which unacquainted with their past or present situation I did not think proper to comply with, but as in the enclosed copy of Gunput Rai's last letter he speaks of a Mr. Michael as a respectable man and known to you, permit me to request the favour

of an hint for the regulation of my future conduct to these people in the event of our falling in each other's way. I have thought Gunputrai's letter further worthy of your notice as conveying some curious traits of the Munshy's character.

In return for Sindia's invitation I propose sending a person from hence with a complimentary present not exceeding 1,000 Rupees on the events of his own and his son's wedding

I have the pleasure to enclose copies of the letters that have passed between me and the Patell and to be with great regard and esteem.

**No. 138**—Malet communicates to Palmer the news of the wedding of Daulatrao Sindia

FROM—C. W. MALET.

TO—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER

*Poona, 6 June 1792.*

Dear Sir,

I deem it of consequence not to lose a moment in forwarding to you the enclosed extract of a letter just received from Lord Cornwallis in answer to one I had the honor to write him the 27th April and it gives me particular pleasure to have it in my power to transmit you such a document from his Lordship, as in case of necessity for your further advance, will enable us to preserve a perfect consistency in our own conduct with such a degree of attention to our respective courts as ought to be perfectly satisfactory to both

The enclosed copy of my last letter to Sindia will explain my having sent my munshey to congratulate him on the nuptials of Daulut Rou on which occasion I sent him a present of cloths to the amount of 1,000 Rupees, in return for the compliment of an invitation to be present at the wedding mentioned in copy of my last letter to Lord Cornwallis of the 1st instant forwarded to you the 2nd

**No. 139**—This is an Inventory of the jewels of the late Ragoba (brought per the Bridgewater via Madras) taken at the Treasury Office in Fort William 27th December 1791. (Vide introduction)

*Calcutta 6 June 1792*

No.

- 1 Gold Collar set with Diamonds and Rubies.
- 1 Necklace of Emeralds and 4 large Pearls.
- 2 A Serpech of Emeralds.
- 2 A large Diamond and Pearls.
- 2 A Star for a Turban
- 3 A Pearl and Ruby Necklace.
- 3 An Emerald Jugah.
- 4 A Diamond do.

- 4 A Perl Necklace with 4 Diamonds.
- 5 An Emerald Serpech
- 5 A String of Pearls and Rubies with a Diamond
- 6 A Diamond Serpech
- 6 A string of Pearls a Diamond and Emerald
- 7 A Diamond Serpech
- 7 A pair of Bracelets of Pearls Rubies and Emeralds  
and a loose Pearl
- 8 A Ruby Serpech
- 8 A Diamond Serpech
- 9 A Diamond Crescent.
- 9 A do Serpech.
- 10 A do. and Pearl Serpech.
- 10 A do Serpech
- 11 A Diamond Serpech
- 11 A Pearl Toorra and 22 loose Pearls.
- 12 A Diamond Serpech and Emerald Drop
- 12 A Bunzoobund consisting of a large Emerald and two Diamonds
- 13 An Emerald Diamond and Pearl Serpech
- 13 Four Diamond Rings
- 14 A Diamond Star (or Kurunphool)
- 14 A large Emerald and Diamond Serpech
- 15 A Ruby and Diamond Serpech
- 15  
& A pair of Diamond Phounchees
- 16
- 16 A Diamond Rugebund.
- 17 An Emerald and Diamond circular Serpech and Pearl Drop.
- 17 A Pearl and Diamond Necklace
- 18 A Diamond and Emerald circular Serpech
- 18 Do do Pounchee.
- 19 A Pearl and Emerald Pounchee
- 20 Diamond and Emerald
- 21 Diamond and Emerald Pounchee.
- 22 A Diamond
- 23 A Diamond
- 24 Two large Pearls and an Emerald
- 25 A Pearl and Diamond etc  
Tuka and 1 Pearl loose
- 26 A Brilliant Diamond in a Box.
- 27 A Daggei set with Diamonds Emeralds and Rubies.

A true copy of the Inventory

(Signed) E. HAY,

Secy. to the Gov.

## SECTION 4

### *Mahadji Sindia at Poona*

No. 140—Malet forwards to the G. G. a description of the ceremony of Pharman-Badi, which took place at Poona on 22nd June 1792

FROM—C. W MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, K. G., GOVERNOR GENERAL

*Poona, 26th June 1792.*

About 12 o'clock the same day (22nd June) Sindia proceeded to the Phirmaun Barree & after drawing up his Infantry to advantage in its neighbourhood & placing the Phirmauns, keellat, &c, articles intended for the Peshwa on the empty musnud supposed to be the King's throne, the Peshwa's approach was announced Sindia advanced to meet him & preceding him received him at the commencement of the carpets of the tents On the Peshwa's entering and reaching the salangah or place of obeisance, he made three low bows to the musnud & advancing, placed 101 gold mohurs on it as a nuzzur, repeated his obeisances & took his seat on the left of the musnud

The Durbar being arranged, Sindia's Munshy delivered into the Peshwa's hands the royal Shukla or letter, copy & translate of which I have the honor to enclose After lifting it respectfully to his head, the Peshwa delivered it to his own Munshy who explained its contents & of one or two other papers which appeared to be the Phirmauns alluded to in it, one of which I am told contained a prohibition to slay bullocks throughout the Timurean Empire. The following articles were then presented, which I shall recount by their proper names as in their original



language they convey certain ideas of distinction which being unknown to our manners, our language does not express —A Keellat of nine pieces, viz. Dustar Surbuste, Goshwaria, Goshbund, Jamma Tas, Ballabund, Kummerbund, Neem asteen, Chaikub, Doshalla; Jewells, viz Jega, Serpech, Kulghee, Malla mutwareed, official Insignia, viz Kullumdan, Mohr Uzeek, Mohr kittaub, Sikka douat, Seppur, Shumshee, Horse, Elephant, Mah-muriatib, Toag, Allim, six elephants to carry these Ingniha, a Nalkie, a Palky, two morchels and three cases of Phirmauns

These articles being formally presented & received, the Peshwa retired to an adjoining tent to put on the royal Keellat, & on his return after repeating his obeisances to the vacant musnud, seated himself on the right of it, when Mhadjee Sindia & his chieftains presented their nuzzurs

Soon after, the Peshwa arose & followed by Mhadjee Sindia and Hurry Punt with the new presented morchels in their hands, proceeded to the Nalkie, in which having seated himself he returned in the state he came, to his palace being accompanied by Sindia.

On the Peshwa entering his palace, Nanna Furnavees and the other Civil and Military officers of Government presented nuzzurs, except the Mankurnies, who, it is to be noticed, did not make any at the Phirmaun Baree &, from their repugnance to the ceremonies prescribed there, declined entering it

The investiture of Mhadjee Sindia with the Neabut of the Vackeel-al-Mutlukkee now took place by the Peshwa's presenting him a complete moulbaskas or habit that had been worn by himself, a sword and target, an horse, elephant, seal of the Neabut, Kullumdan of the Neabut, Nalkie & a pair of Morchels.

**No. 141**—In the matter of the Maratha claims for Chauth in Karnatak and elsewhere and of the judicial administration of Benares, Cornwallis instructs the Resident to reject emphatically all Maratha demands of that nature.

FROM—EARL CORNWALLIS,

TO- SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET, BART, RESIDENT

*Madras, 24th June 1792.*

I have received your letter dated the 8th instant

The privilege of enlisting men in the most friendly country is so seldom granted by any state, that I think a continuance of that indulgence after the peace could hardly be expected from the Marattas Scindia may have obtained recruits privately from the Vizier's territories, but I believe he has not for several years past been permitted to raise men openly in that country.

Hurry Punt's account of the articles that were agitated between himself and me, according to the communication of Behroo Punt, differs so widely from the report that he before transmitted to Nana that it hardly merits a second contradiction.

The subject of article the 1st which is not correctly stated, passed to the best of my recollection in presence of Appa Balwant Row and Buchajee Punt, but it is a matter of no great consequence. The demand of the ordinary Chout in all my conferences with the Marattas I have uniformly refused to hear of, and treated as entirely inadmissible, the payment however of Chout by the Nizam for the county near Adoni was confirmed by treaty as Sir John Kennaway informed me and stood therefore on the ground of a Peshcush, and, at the time it was mentioned, whether in private with Hurry Punt, or in presence of the others, I gave some such guarded answer as Behroo Punt reported.

The conversation about Scindia in article 2nd is more misrepresented now than it was in Hurry Punt's letter to Nana. I can only again refer you for a statement of what actually passed, to my letter of the 2nd of April, and assure you that no proposition was made by Hurry Punt for our giving assistance to the Peshwa, nor was the loan of two or more of our Battalions mentioned at that time, nor at any other meeting except slightly by Buchajee Punt when I took leave of Hurry Punt.

No part of the matter contained in articles 3, 4 & 5 made a part of the private conversation with Hurry Punt. The subject of the minarets at Benares was I believe never mentioned by him in my presence, but frequently brought forward in messages from him through Buchajee Punt, I always treated the idea with the contempt it deserved, and gave the most positive refusals, except that on one occasion when Buchajee Punt urged that the request was so fair and reasonable that he was sure no Mahommadan at Benares could object to it, I said in order to put an end to the persecution that Mr Duncan should be consulted, and if I received assurances from him that the measure would give no offence to our Mahommadan subjects, I might perhaps be brought to think more favourably of it.

I did not feel myself very dangerously committed by this concession. You will easily guess Mr. Duncan's answer, and I must request that if ever the subject should be again mentioned you will give so decided a negative as to preclude all further solicitation.

Articles 4th and 5th were brought forward by Buchajee Punt, and, I thought rather impertinently, in the presence of Hurry Punt after Appa Balwant and himself were called in.

On the recommendation of kindness to the Rajah of Tanjore, I said coolly to the best of my memory that the Rajah always had been and ever would be well treated by us. When he asked permission to demand the Chout of Mahomed Ali, I said, treating the matter as a joke, that the Nabob had no money, but on his persevering to urge the point, and saying that after

he had again obtained possession of his country he would be able to pay some Chout, I answered a little gravely that I would not advise them to look for Chout in the Carnatic, upon which Hurry Punt rather sharply bid him say no more, and that it should be as I pleased

I shall take up the behaviour of Scindia's Vakeels at Benares and the contempt shown by them and persons under their protection to our Courts of Justice in a very serious manner as soon as I return to Calcutta, and write my sentiments very fully to that Chief and to Major Palmer. It would in the meantime be convenient if a favourable opportunity should offer that you should inform Nana Furnavese of Mr Duncan's complaints, and tell him how much concern it gives me, after all the pains I had taken to enforce the laws, and to govern the Holy City in the most just and equitable manner, to find my good intention opposed, and the Courts of Justice resisted by the nation from which I had the greatest reason to expect support, that however I have gone too far to recede, and that I am determined to punish with the utmost severity of the law, all those who shall dare to resist its just authority.

If ever the subject of Tanjore should be mentioned to you, you will treat the interference of the Marattas as totally inadmissible

**No. 142**—Malet writes to Palmer to wait at Ujjain and avoid the vexation his arrival would cause to the Poona Court

FROM—C. W MALET,

TO—MAJOR PALMER.

*Poona, 9th July 1792*

Dear Sir,

I have been duly favored with yours of the 22nd ult and beg leave to refer you to the enclosed continuation of my letters to the Governor General for my sentiments relative to this Court and Mhadjee Sindia

I was very glad to find by your favor of the 22nd that you had been enabled by the style of the Patell's invitation, so easily to waive compliance with it, since after what has passed between his Lordship and this Court, your advancing to this place "unless the repugnance hitherto signified to it by the Ministry is removed", would amount to a breach of faith on our part, so that should you think the expedient of your advancing to Janjoom as suggested by me for obviating all cause of dissatisfaction on the part of the Patell, would not answer that end for which it was adopted by the Gov. Genl but that he would still insist on your coming to this place, I am strongly inclined from what I can collect of this Court's disposition and from what as above observed has already passed, to advise your continuing to have recourse to the most plausible reasons that can be alleged for your remaining at Ugen, as the least exceptionable mode

of acting up to the spirit and intention of His Lordship's orders to us and his engagements to this Court as at present constituted

*P S*—As from the late orders I presume you always send copies of your letters to me to Ld. Cornwallis I will in future only send copies of mine own

No. 143—Cornwallis writing to Palmer administers an emphatic warning to Scindia against his claims of Chauth for Bengal, Benares and Broach. The letter marks an important step forward in British policy and a retrograde one for the Marathas.

FROM—CORNWALLIS,

TO—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER, RESIDENT WITH MAHADJEE SCINDIA.

*Fort William, 9th August 1792*

I have received your letters dated the 10th and 14th of last month, and I shall take this opportunity to desire that my sentiments may be conveyed fully to Scindia not only on the principal point contained in these letters, but also upon some others in which the honour and interest of the Company are materially concerned and to which I shall expect his very serious attention

The behaviour of Scindia's Aumils or Managers to our Factory at Baroch has long been so incompatible with the terms of the treaty and with his profession of friendship to the Company, that I had for some time past determined to require as soon as the war with Tippoo should be concluded, that he would take effectual measures to prevent a repetition of the injuries of which the Resident at Baroch has so frequently complained. But the late outrage at that place is of a nature that particularly calls for immediate and signal reparation and I therefore highly approve of your having instantly made the demand without waiting for my instructions.

I shall not enter into an explanation here of the reasons that have induced me to suspect that Scindia had during our embarrassment in the war with Tippoo indulged himself in views of ambition unfriendly to our interest. But in the present situation of political affairs I am willing to hope that he will without hesitation make the reparation that you have demanded for the insulting behaviour of his Aumil towards our Resident, and for the atrocious murder of the Sepoy, and whilst you inform him that nothing short of the removal and disgrace of Luliahoy the Aumil, and the most exemplary punishment in the view of the Factory of Baroch of the Patans who committed the murder, will be considered by me as sufficient satisfaction for the late outrages. You may also declare to Scindia in the most explicit terms, that my patience is wearied with the numerous complaints of the Company's servants at Baroch and that I shall no longer tamely submit to any infringement of the privileges which we reserved to ourselves when we agreed to cede that town and district to him.

Unjustifiable as the conduct of Scindia's servants has been at Barceh, some late behaviour of his Vakcels to the Resident and Court of Adaulat at Benares has been still more insulting to this Government. I desire therefore that after calling the attention of Scindia and of Bhau Buckshy to the pains that I have taken to render the resort of strangers of all nations to Benares both convenient and safe and to the marks of favor and distinction that I have ever with pleasure shown to the Marattas in particular, you will acquaint them that it was with surprize and concern that I have received representations from the supreme Board whilst I was in the field as well as since my return to Bengal, that Scindia's vakcels and others who call themselves his dependents have on several occasions during my absence behaved with a degree of indecency and insolence towards the Resident and Court of Adaulat at Benares in prosecution of some claims upon several individuals at that place which no well regulated Government can suffer.

A number of other Marattas having also within the last two years been guilty of many improprieties at Benares, I shall not require that Scindia's servants in particular shall be punished for their past misbehaviour, but I desire that you will in moderate and plain language give Scindia and Bhau Buckshy clearly to understand that tho' all Marattas who may have occasion to visit the Company's territories either on business or for religious purposes, will, whilst they demean themselves, quietly meet with the friendly treatment, yet that, on the other hand, I am determined that all acts of resistance to our established laws and insults to the officers of our Government, shall without respect of persons be in future severely punished.

I shall direct the Resident at Benares to signify the above resolution to all the Marattas who may be now at that place, and I trust that Scindia will on his part give such instructions to his servants and dependants as will effectually restrain them in future from giving us grounds for complaint.

Another point still remains on which I wish my sentiments to be communicated in the most explicit terms to Scindia. I allude here to a paper which was transmitted hither by the news-writer at Delhi containing copies of letters said to have been written by the King to the Peshwa and to Scindia, and in which he says that he hopes that by their exertions a note may now be obtained from Bengal.

Not to come to me in an authenticated form, there would be impropriety in making use of it as a ground for negotiation. But if letters to the above purport should be sent to you or if you should find a proper opening for the subject, my directions are that you should declare that in the present situation of the King I consider all letters written on political subjects in his name as written by Scindia's sanction and authority only.

and that you are instructed by me to add that an attempt to establish principles of the above description by any power whatever will be warmly resented by this Government

You will in the course of any conversation or correspondence which you may hold with Scindia upon this point, take care to recall in the most forcible manner to his recollection the spirit of moderation and forbearance that has been manifested by this Government during the long period in which he has been employed in extending his conquests in the northern parts of Hindostan, and that it would give us pain to be forced to depart from the neutral and pacific system that we have hitherto observed in that quarter. You will at the same time inform him that it is by my particular directions that you say that we have no desire to make any new acquisitions, nor even to interfere in the internal affairs of the Empire if we can avoid it with honor and safety, but that if any of our neighbour, should be rash enough to insult us by unjust demands, or in any other shape whatever, we feel ourselves both able and resolved to exact ample satisfaction.

Altho' I am persuaded that you will make use of the most guarded and temperate language in conveying the substance of the above instructions to Scindia, it must unavoidably appear to him that I am not entirely satisfied with his late conduct, and whilst I do not desire to conceal my dissatisfaction from him, I wish that you should express in strong terms my regret that circumstances had arisen to occasion it and my earnest hopes that he will prove the sincerity of his professions of attachment and regard for the interests of the Company by removing all our present grounds for complaint and by that means restore our correspondence to its former state of friendship and cordiality

I am very glad that Scindia has withdrawn his request that you should proceed to join him, as many considerations still render it necessary for me to continue the restriction against your going to Poona unless with the consent and entire approbation of the Peshwa's Government

**No. 144**—Cornwallis repeats to Malet what he wrote in the preceding communication to Palmer on the subject of Sindia's claims.

FROM—CORNWALLIS,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARE MALET, BART, POONAH.

*Fort William, 10th August 1792.*

SIR,

I have received your letters dated the 11th, 15th, 23rd, 26th and 30th of June and 7th ultimo, and the particular accounts contained in them of the late occurrences and interchanges of visits at Poona have given me great satisfaction.

No letter from Scindia has yet reached me, either on the subject of the late differences at Baroch, or concerning the currency of the Rupees of that place at Bombay. But should such a letter arrive, I shall refer the question of the currency, as I should all other points of a similar description, to the decision of the presidency most immediately concerned.

I am well aware of the spirit of ambition and avarice which predominates in the Maratta character, but I trust that our regard to justice supported by our power will always awe that state from attempting to make any infringements upon the honor or interests of the British Nation.

Should any act or expression of the above tendency come to your knowledge, it will be your duty to oppose it at the Durbar where you reside with firm and explicit language, giving every person to whom it is addressed clearly to understand, that guided as the British Government is by principles of moderation in abstaining from all acts of injustice or even interference with the affairs of its neighbours, it will ever be found determined and ready to resent any claims or attempts to encroach upon its rights or to disturb its possessions in this country.

Inclosed I send you for your information, copies of the letters that I have written to Sir John Kennaway and to Major Palmer, and you will be pleased to consider the paragraphs of the letter to Major Palmer which relate to the late behaviour of the Marattas at Benares and to the letters which are said to have been written by the King to the Peshwa and to Scindia, as instructions also for your own conduct in your conferences with the Poona Minister.

**No. 145**—Cornwallis authorizes Malet to discuss and settle terms of a treaty of guarantee between the three allies against Tipu's aggression, and explains the lines on which the treaty should be arranged. This paper is printed by Ross Vol. 2, p. 175, but is repeated here for ready reference in view of the important point of which it treats.

FROM—CORNWALLIS,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET, BART, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 20th August 1792.*

Sir,

Altho' there seems at present to be no reason to apprehend that Tippoo will for a considerable period be disposed to come to a rupture with any of the members of the late confederacy, yet as it is of great importance for preserving our reputation for good faith as well as for the general interests of the British Nation, that the grounds should be clearly explained on which the Allies can in consequence of the 13th and 10th articles of the Treaty of Alliance that were formed at the commencement of the war, demand assistance and support from each other against any hostile attempt

of their late common enemy, I look upon it as proper and desirable that the Treaty of Guarantee which they are bound to enter into, should with all convenient dispatch be put into a distinct form, and I therefore wish that you should take an early opportunity to confer fully with the Minister upon this subject.

Every consideration will induce me to examine and discuss any propositions that may be made by him in the most amicable manner, but the greatest care must be taken that no vague or ambiguous expression shall be admitted into this new instrument, and that the stipulations shall in no shape go beyond the spirit of the article upon which they will be founded. I shall defer entering much into detail until you can inform me of Nana's sentiments and expectations, but it is proper that you should be acquainted with any ideas of the general principles which should form the basis of the agreement.

The allies are bound to guarantee against Tippoo the territories that each of them might possess at the conclusion of the war, but it must always be adverted to that the stipulation is merely defensive, and cannot operate unless Tippoo should attack either of them without just provocation.

It must therefore be clearly expressed in the Treaty of Guarantee, that in case any difference should arise between one of the latter and Tippoo, the other allies are to have a right to expect that the nature and circumstances of such difference shall be fully communicated to them, in order that they may give their opinion and advice, and endeavour to settle it by a temperate negotiation, and that they shall not be considered as bound to take up arms in his favour, until they are convinced that he has justice on his side, and all means of conciliation shall have proved fruitless.

Should a rupture become unavoidable, the interest and safety of the contracting powers will be so evidently and deeply involved in the event that, it would be highly injudicious in them to limit their exertions in endeavouring to bring it to a speedy and honourable conclusion, and it must consequently be stipulated that the whole force of each state is to be employed for that purpose.

The distress and danger of the party that may be attacked being entitled to the greatest attention from the other members of the alliance, it ought to be understood and settled, that whilst no time should be lost in preparing their whole force to take the field, every immediate assistance that may be practicable should be afforded with such troops as may be in actual readiness for service.

The above are the fair principles for the Treaty of Guarantee; and to render any further treaty unnecessary in the event that Tippoo's conduct should again force us into hostilities during the existence of the Guarantee,



it may be proper to insert in it, that a general plan of operations for the confederate forces is to be concerted as soon as possible after a rupture becomes certain, and that conformable to the terms of the alliance that was made at the commencement of last war, none of the parties shall enter into separate negotiations, but that (under the exclusion of unreasonab!e objections) all measures for concluding a peace shall be conducted with the knowledge and approbation of the whole

You will communicate to Sn J Kenna way the particulars and result of your conferences upon this point, that you may act in entire conformity with each other.

**No. 146**—Malet discusses the move for a College at Benares to promote oriental learning and communicates his impressions of the Maratha people.

FROM—C W MALET,

TO—JONATHAN DUNCAN, ESQR, RESIDENT, BENARES.

*Poona, 24 August 1792.*

I have been duly favoured with your letter of the 14th February and heartily wish that the foundation of a college for promoting or rather preserving Brahmin knowledge may answer the very liberal intention with which it has been planned by you and adopted by Government. The merits of the institution have been a favourite topic with me since the receipt of your letters containing an account of it. But I have sometimes had the mortification of thinking that my descriptions instead of producing admiration and emulation have been received with marks of coldness and jealousy.

I am sorry indeed to say that my observation of these people induces me to think that, attention to a few objects of their caprice or personal affections would have more weight in their mind than the most dignified and enlarged acts of general beneficence, tho' even such instances of attention would, I apprehend, rather lead to new attempts at innovation, than compensate for a deviation from the strictness of established institutions by their conciliatory impression on a people whose genius I have endeavoured to give you some idea of in my letters of 17 July and 15 December 1790 and whose applications to me for recommendations to you I have no small difficulty in getting rid of, by reference to the general equity and goodness of your administration that affords ample indulgence to every description of men. But this as above observed is not the object of a people who aim at conspicuous preeminence and exclusive partiality and I am not un frequently reduced to the alternative of risking their dissatisfaction in preference to subjecting myself to the appearance of countenancing attempts to encroach on the consistency of our system.

The enclosed extract from my correspondence with the Governor General will, I trust, be useful as a particular elucidation of the general spirit above alluded to and as a strong proof, that the goodness and lenity of our Government cannot be too decidedly marked by the impressive hand of firm and equal authority.

No. 147—Malet communicates to the Governor General the cordial relations subsisting between the Peshwa and Sindia and conveys incidental news from the Court of Poona

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—CORNWALLIS,

*Poona, 2 September 1792.*

I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 19th ultimo

Since the conclusion of the late holidays, the meetings of Sindia with the Peshwa have been very frequent and marked with every appearance of the warmest cordiality, the former embracing every opportunity of shewing the utmost respect and obedience, the latter of making a courteous and conciliatory return in the course of which the Patell has of late been frequently invited to the exhibitions of the fights of elephants, tigers, and other wild beasts and to the feats of horsemanship, with which the Peshwa principally amuses himself at the intervals of study and business. Many private conferences have likewise taken place, of which I think it probable that the critical situation of affairs between Holcar, and Copal Bhow, Sindia's commander in Hindoostan must have been a principal point of discussion, added to the state of affairs at Hyderabad, at which place it is said some designs have lately been discovered by the Minister, of his enemies to seize or assassinate him. Large sums lately remitted from Hyderabad have, I am credibly informed, been lately recovered by Sindia from Shroffs here, and detachments of his troops have been sent to buy considerable assignments on the district of Bheer.

The person who attended Hurry Punt during the late war, as agent of the Nabob of Kurnool is lately arrived at this place, on his Master's business relative to which nothing has been communicated to me from the Durbar.

Camel couriers have lately been dispatched from hence to Tippoo with letters from Sindia in answer to those received on the event of his own, and his son's marriage, Tippoo's couriers are detained here till the return of those sent hence.

There are reports of the Peshwa's intending to enter his tents soon, some say, on an ablutory excursion to some of the neighbouring rivers; other reasons are likewise assigned of giving weight to the demands of this Court on that of Hyderabad and of visiting the Rajah of Sattara to receive from his hands, the investiture of the late insignia, brought by Sindia from Shah Alam, but it does not appear to me that the excursion is a thing absolutely fixed on.

Hurry Punt has been very much indisposed for some days, and has lately removed to one of his gardens near town for change of air.

**No. 148** - Cornwallis asks Malet's opinion on the change in the address requested by the Peshwa in the course of mutual correspondence.

FROM-CORNWALLIS,

TO-SIR C. W. MALET.

*Calcutta, 21 September 1792*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters dated 29th July 1792

In consequence of the objections urged some time ago against the insertion of the word "Furزند" in the address from the Governor General, the word Furزند was omitted, and the rest of the address, mutilated as it was, was continued on the grounds contained in my former address to you. Since that time, having received your further advice on this subject, desiring that the ancient style of address from the Governor General of Bengal might be used, I searched the ancient title and used it as I found it in the book of addresses tho' considered inferior to that used to Sindia and the Rajah of Berar. The address now desired in your letter of the 29th July 1792, is the address which was used prior to the institution of the Mughal titles since objected to, and is the same as has been long used to Sindia and the Rajah of Berar. I enclose a Persian transcript of it in full, and request you will obtain the opinion of the Peshwa or his officers on it, that an address suitable to their pleasure and not inconsistent may be used hereafter.

As they have only desired a renewal of the use of the address customary prior to the grant of the new office from the King, the titles of which had been substituted according to usual practice in such cases, without adverting to the attention thereby paid to the office, I confess my opinion is in favour of their request, especially as our Government has not publicly avowed the office. You will be pleased to remark the addition in the address now desired to that used at that time, for which purpose I have enclosed a Persian copy of both, and favor me with the determination.

No. 149—Malet is informed of the desire of the Court of Directors that the History of the Marathas and the Political and Historical Glossary should be completed and despatched. See No. 133 above dated 25th April 1792

FROM—SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
TO—SIR C. W. MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA

*Fort William, 3 October 1792*

I am directed by the Governor General in Council to signify to you the wish of the Honourable Court of Directors, that, as soon as your other important avocations will admit, you would bring down the History of the Marathas to as late a period as possible, being convinced, from the specimens they have already seen, that the compilation of the work, while it will redound to your honor, will afford them an ample and satisfactory fund of information.

The Honourable Court are pleased to add, that they should be happy to receive the Political and Historical Glossary mentioned in your letter to Mr. Hay dated the 3rd of June 1787.

No. 150—Malet reports to the Court of Directors the circumstances of Sindia's visit to Poona and his enmity to Holkar and sends a graphic review of the present state of the Maratha power.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,  
TO—THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HON'BLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS.

*Poona, 16th October 1792.*

I shall endeavour to benefit by notice conveyed to me by General Abercromby of an intended despatch to the Hon'ble Court via Bussora to give you a short sketch of affairs

Mhadjee Sindia, whose views of undivided power over the acquisitions lately made in the north of Hindoostan had been greatly checked by the presence and pretensions of Tukoji Holkar and Ali Bahadur, chieftains of this state vested with separate commands and influenced by rival interests, arrived here the 11th June last, and had his first meeting with the Peshwa on the 13th.

On the 21st I paid him a compliment of a ceremonious visit which he returned on 2nd July, previous to which on the 21st June he (in the style adopted in this country on such occasions) had presented to the Peshwa Phirmauns from Shah Allum for the high office of Vakeel-ul-Mutluk qualified with the condition of the Peshwa's devolving the entire administration of its functions on Mhadjee Sindia in the character of his Deputy. These Phirmauns were accompanied with various



The curiosities furnished me by the Court of Directors to be presented to the Peshwa have been duly received, but owing to some fault in the package or carriage the ' ' ' was much damaged but has been almost completely repaired by the ingenuity of Lt Emmett with whose merits as a surveyor you may not be unacquainted. I now wait only a good opportunity of presenting these and I shall do it in such a manner as may be most likely to increase this Court's respect for our nation and the cordiality that so happily subsists between the two Governments.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan has been long thought out of all danger from the indisposition with which he was troubled some time ago.

It is very satisfactory to close this address with a congratulation on the present flourishing and dignified appearance of the Company's affairs and the national interests in this country, where the uniform language of all the native Princes is as strongly descriptive of foreign weight and respectability as the reduced discount on paper (which by letters just received from Calcutta dated 13th ult. was then only 6s. per cent.) is of domestic prosperity.

**No. 151**—The Governor General communicates to Malet important decisions he had taken, cancelling the article of Maratha guarantee in the Treaty of Salbye and disallowing the Maratha claim for Chauth against any Indian Power. The Governor General also suggests that the Court of Poona can have a supply of arms and ammunition from Bombay and they need not establish their own factories for them.

FROM—CORNWALLIS,

TO—SIR C. W. MALET, BART., RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 27 October 1792.*

I have received your letters and I think myself much obliged to you for the full and free communications contained in them.

I now enclose copies of those that I have written to Sir John Kennaway and General Abercromby, by the former of which you will be pleased to be guided in your conduct respecting the proposition to the Poona Government to bring the guarantee engagement of the allies into a clear and distinct form, and by the latter you will be informed of the measures that I have recommended with regard to the Rajah of Colapore.

Considering the former relative military force of the Mysore and the Mahratta States, nothing could have been more nugatory and useless than the article of the Treaty of Salbye, by which the Mahrattas without specifically agreeing to guarantee our possessions, engaged to restrain Hyder Ali and the Nizam from committing hostilities against us, and

looking therefore upon that article merely as empty words, which could not be supposed to influence the conduct of the Mahrattas from its having been totally out of their power to conform to it, I have never thought it worth while to lay a stress upon it in any conferences or transactions with them.

With regard to the presumptuous Mahratta claim of Chout, I wish that as far as relates to ourselves, it should not only be treated with contempt, but that the Mahrattas should also know that it can never be mentioned by them without exciting our displeasure and indignation, and it may likewise be proper that they should clearly understand that we do not look upon ourselves as in the most distant degree engaged to support them in such a claim upon any of the other powers in India.

If by Kundnee which you suppose they may demand from Tippoo, is meant Chout, what I have said is applicable to it, and if it is in the sense of any other pecuniary demand we must not only refuse all countenance to it, but should an attempt be made to enforce it, we shall be obliged to declare explicitly that after the treaty of Seringapatam it becomes unjust

I am much inclined to be of opinion that it is advisable in us to furnish the neighbouring native powers with certain quantities of fire-arms at reasonable prices, rather than drive them to the necessity of establishing manufactories of their own, and as the Mahrattas have it in their power to procure any quantity of arms and military stores that they please from foreign nations, it is the less worth our while to disappoint them of a supply if they should ask for it.

Should Nana therefore apply for permission to purchase some arms at Bombay, either in consequence of his hearing that the Nizam has obtained a similar indulgence at Madras or for any other reason, I am not disposed to refuse it, but in order to enhance the favor you may only agree to refer the application to me.

No. 152- Cornwallis suggests to Kennaway and Malet to ascertain the views of their respective Courts for clearing the ambiguities of the present articles of the Treaty of Guarantee and making British responsibilities definite and precise.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—SIR JOHN KENNAWAY, BART., RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

*Fort William, 27 October 1792.*

I have received your letters and Mr Secretary Hay has also laid before me the copy of your letter, dated the 16th ultimo, addressed to the Resident at Poona, which you transmitted to him.

As the public service could suffer no injury by your postponing the execution of my instructions contained in my letter dated the 20th of August until you could hear from me in reply to your letter addressed to Sir Charles Malet, I approve highly, and think myself most obliged to you, for previously giving your sentiments fully and freely upon a point of so much delicacy and importance. But, after having deliberately reconsidered the subject with your reasoning, and the different points of view in which it has appeared to yourself and to Sir Charles Malet, I am still of opinion that it would be most desirable that our Guarantee Engagements with our allies should be put into clear and explicit terms, instead of remaining as at present, in a form which being rather general and vague, may expose us at some future day to the hazard of being called upon to adopt a line of conduct different from the original intention of our agreements, or, in case of a refusal on our part to the imputation of a breach of public faith.

Being, however, aware of the jealousy and airt of the Maratta character and of the looseness and irregularity of principles so apparent in the Nizam's Government, I am sensible that considerable caution will be necessary upon this occasion. But I know that I can depend both on Sir Charles Malet and yourself for exercising the utmost discretion in endeavouring to make the proposition in such a manner as to impress your respective Durbars with the conviction that we have no other object in view but that which we profess, viz, to put the mutual Guarantee, for which we stand engaged to each other, in so clear a form that the true meaning and extent of the agreement may not, at a future period, admit of dispute or misconstruction by any of the parties.

It will soon appear whether our allies are willing to meet our wishes upon this point, and should they manifest any evasion or even backwardness to it, I do not desire that it should be pressed upon them, because it could answer no useful purpose, but if, in the latter case, it should be judged advisable to withdraw the proposition, I shall expect that they will explicitly avow the meaning which they affix to our present engagements, and you will be pleased to deliver a written declaration on our part, that we consider the three powers to be bound to each other to act with their whole force against Tippoo, in the event of his attacking either of them without clear and just provocation, but in no other case whatever, and that the plan of operations is to be settled when war shall appear to be inevitable.

I have only to add that my wish that Sir Charles Malet and yourself should consult with each other, both respecting the time and the mode in which the proposition that I have directed, should be made at the Durbars where you respectively reside.

Enclosed is a copy of my letter of this date to Sir Charles Malet.



**No. 153**—Malet forwards to the Governor General news he obtained of the debates that took place in the presence of the Peshwa for adjusting the differences between Nana and Sindia and for reconstructing the Maratha administration.

Translation of a Paper of Intelligence enclosed in a letter  
from the Resident

*Poona, 4th November 1792.*

*Received 28th November 1792.*

For several months past serious debates have taken place between the Poona Ministers and Scindia Yesterday Nana Phurnaveese, Appa Balwunt Row, Ragoo Pundit, Gooipoora and other partizans of Nana Phurnaveese except Hurry Pundit, have observed that the Peshwa inclined towards Scindia, and that the Maankurry Chiefs and Luchmun Row Raasta are in every respect unanimous in opinion with Sindia, that in the event of a continuation of this intricacy and tedious debate, Morubba Phurnaveese, who is confined in the fort of Ahmednagar and the sons of Ragonaut Row to whom on coming of age, the office of Dewan devolves by the conditions of the Peshwa's Government are forthcoming Some time ago Nana Phurnaveese actuated by motives of caution wrote the state of his affairs to the Peshwa, and yesterday again he represented to the Peshwa that hitherto he had transacted the affairs of the Sirkar to the best of his judgment, that he was now grown old and wished for leave of absence for 14 months to perform the pilgrimage of Benares and Gya, and to take with him property amounting to a crore of Rupees; that the rest appertained to the Sirkar This point was not adjusted in the Peshwa's presence yesterday Today Nana Phurnaveese sent a verbal message thro' Ramjee Pateel to Sindia, purporting that he (Sindia) had desired his dismissal from the Peshwa, but that the Peshwa was inclined to keep him in his presence, that Sindia had said that he was distressed for his expenses and harrassed by the bankers, to whom three crores of Rupees were due, but that the Peshwa had no resources from whence to pay it, and that Sindia had requested permission to take it from wherever he could Nana Phurnaveese further added in the message that the Peshwa's Government had not hitherto been neglected; that whatever he possessed, the Peshwa or himself might take to pay the debts to the bankers, on this condition that he (the Minister) might be permitted to go to Benares, and that Sindia would attend the presence and act as he should think best Sindia on hearing this replied that as Nana Phurnaveese was old, he (Sindia) was no longer fit for business and wished to go to Jam Gaum and provide for the seapoys, that the Peshwa wished him to remain at the presence; thus how could the expenses be defrayed, that he would discharge the seapoys and remain 2

Sindia is extremely disgusted with the chicanery of the Poona Ministers, and very angry. In reply to Sindia's remark to the Peshwa relative to his distress on account of his expenses, it is said that he has been desired to take ten lacs from the Sirkar and to remain. The emissaries of Morubba Phurnavese have begun to negotiate for the payment of money to Sindia, and Sindia's chiefs have advised their master to employ Appa Chitnavces and Ramjee Patel until the negotiations be brought to a conclusion. If it should turn out that Sindia shall attend at the Durbar, he should make his own terms. This subject has been much debated today.

Extract from Poona Resident's letter, dated 9th November 1792  
to Governor General Cornwallis

I am informed that an agent from Tipoo named Syed Hussain has been for some days entertained rather covertly by Mhadjee Sindia. I have received no communication from this Court or the Patell relative to this person, tho' from the predicament in which Tippoo at present stands, with respect to the Company and this State, his mission should in candor be explained to us and possibly has been by the Patell to Major Palmer.

Strong appearances of discontent between this administration and Sindia still prevail, while both parties seem held in suspense as to their future measures by the expectation of answers to the letters dispatched by each to their respective partizans, after receiving intelligence of the disgraceful retreat of Holcar before Gopal Bhow.

**No. 154**—Malet writing to Palmer defines the attitude that the British should adopt regarding the ascendancy which Sindia might attain at the Court of Poona.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER.

*Poona, 4 November 1792.*

I was exceedingly concerned to learn from your favor of the 25th recd the 2nd instant, that you were indisposed and sincerely hope that this will greet you perfectly restored to health. I will transmit your communications relative to the Broach business to General Abercromby by the first opportunity which I expect will be this day.

The enclosed copies of my last addresses to the Governor General and your own regular intelligence from Gunput Rai will convey to you as distinct an idea of affairs here as their perplexed state will admit, and it was very satisfactory to learn by your account of Sindia's own sentiments relative to your advice, that he seems inclined to relieve us from further dangers of involution in that labyrinth of intrigue in which he is himself entangled with this Court by expressing a disposition to dispense with your attendance. Indeed his affairs at present seem in such a strain of

ascendancy as rather to give cause for apprehension of his gaining too decided an advantage over this ministry, than to require any aid from the credit of our connection or countenance. And I humbly presume that the most desirable termination for us of the present very important political contest will be that the respective parties should emerge from it with powers still adequate to the operations of mutual check and counterpoise. At all events, I humbly presume that on every principle of wisdom, rectitude and good faith, any interference on our part, unless as friends to both parties and at their joint solicitation would be productive of unprofitable, perhaps troublesome embarrassment. Whereas by steadily pursuing the straight line of invigorating our own institutions, vigilantly watching the affairs of our neighbours and acting with firmness and justice both at home and abroad, we may very reasonably expect that, let what may happen around us, we shall be too much respected to be molested, and if molested too well prepared to feel much apprehension for the result.

**No. 155**—Malet proposes presents to be given to the Peshwa, Nana, Haripant and Bahiro pant.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—MR CHERRY

*Poona, 23rd November 1792*

With respect to a consideration that in my official address I have proposed to his Lordship a present for Behro Punt, I will request you it not improper to remind his Lordship that he once gave me a latitude on that point, which my desire to avoid the exercise of as long as possible and the subsequent discovery of the magnitude of Behro Punt's expectations, induced me not to act upon; perhaps the best way to get rid of the business would be for his Lordship to authorise me to give entertainments to the Peshwa, Nanna, Hurry Punt and Behro Punt on the plea of the happy termination of the late war, at which I might in his name, make presents to the amount of the balance of subsidy that is now paying me, on which occasion I might also handsomely introduce the presents from the Court of Directors for the Peshwa.

**No. 156**—Malet receives Cornwallis' sentiments on the former's claim to Baronetcy and the payment of gratuity received from the Maratha Government to Captain Little's Regiment.

FROM—SECRETARY TO G. G.,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 26 November 1792.*

I am directed by the Governor General in Council to acquaint you that his Lordship, upon adverting to the 3rd, 4th, and 5th paragraphs of your

address to the Governor General dated the 14th of August, has been pleased to determine that the wish you have expressed relative to your claim to the dignity of Baronetage, founded on the Fiat of Charles the Second in the year 1665 will be submitted in the next dispatches through the Hon'ble Court of Directors to the favourable consideration of his Majesty's Ministers, to be laid before the King

I received your letter, of the 22nd of last month, and am directed to acquaint you in answer to that part of it respecting the gratuity which you have reason to expect will be offered by the Poona Government for Major Little's Detachment in approval of its services, that if you should receive any money on this account, you are authorised to pay it to the officers and men of the detachment, to be proportionally divided according to the rules for that purpose

No. 157—Malet sends further news to the G. G. on the subject of Sindia taking his leave to go to the north and the differences that had arisen at the Court in that connection.

*Translate of Intelligence from Sindhia's Camp.*

*Received 12th December 1792*

9th November —Sindhia was informed, Nana had represented to the Peshwa that he (Sindhia) was desirous of taking leave to go, and celebrate his marriage, and that on that occasion, it would be necessary to give him a khilat, to which the Peshwa replied, that he was at liberty to do as he pleased. Sindia answered, that if he received his khilat of leave by the 5th Rabi-us-sanı (20th November) he should march towards Jaumgown, on the 8th (23 November) where after celebrating his marriage, he should proceed to Chumar Gown, remain there a few days, and return to Jam-Gown, when he should act as necessity prompted

10th November —The Poona Ministers have desired Purseram Bhow to send for all his troops to Poona, on the plea that the Peshwa was desirous of mustering and knowing what troops went to the southward. The Bhow has accordingly dispatched letters to his officers to that effect. Great vigilance is maintained and preparation going forwards in the Bhow's and Hurry Pundit's camps and particular vigilance is observed at night. The Ministers continue still to observe to the Peshwa and Nana that, although Sindia who wants to take leave for the purpose of celebrating his marriage gives out, that after its celebration he shall return, yet since he has not in all this time paid any nuzzerana or Peshcush into the Sircaı's treasury and has moreover made light of the pretensions of Tuckojee Holkar, it was not probable that after quitting Poona, he would return

and adjust matters, that therefore it was advisable, the more pressing he was for his departure, to temporize and keep the matter in suspense and not to give him his dismissal without he bound himself by some sort of engagements, for that if he were thus suffered to depart, other sirdars and servants would be divested of all sense of awe. Sindia was highly incensed on learning this instance of the caprice and chicanery of the Poona Ministers, who were unfixed to any one line of conduct, and replied that it was his wish to procure his dismissal in any manner, by which mutual satisfaction might be promoted and both remain upon good terms, but that the Poona Ministers would not refrain from deceit.

*11th November*—Appa Chitnavelss represented to Sindia, Hurry Pundit had observed that he (Sindia) was wise and experienced, and capable of conducting affairs of the greatest importance, that as to the disputes between Copaul Bhow and Tukkojee Holkar, it was the wish of the Peshwa and all his Ministers that this disagreement should be accommodated and that if an accommodation did not take place at the desire of the Peshwa, it would tend to weaken authority, and promote dissension; that it was therefore necessary to take steps for putting an end to the disputes, that in the conduct of other affairs his (Sindia's) wishes and satisfaction would be consulted. Sindia answered that there had been no misconduct on his part, that Holkar had suffered merely from his own pride. After a good deal of debate, he observed, that whilst they professed to leave everything to him, they would not relinquish their own object. That neither was it his wish the disputes should exist, and that he was content, if such permanent arrangement were made as to prevent mutual ill-will in future, to carry into execution what might be determined on respecting the Moamla of Jyepoor, in concert with and agreeable to the wishes of Nana and Hurry Pundit.

*14th November*—It was represented to Sindia, that the Poona Ministers had spoken to the Peshwa, Nana and Hurry Pundit on the subject of a Khelaat of leave for him (Sindhia) to this effect that it was not customary to confer a khellat of leave on occasion of a marriage, that it would be proper the marriage should take place there (Poona), but the(re) was no objection to his going and the khelaat might be sent after him according to custom to Jaum-Gown. The vakeel, who brought letters from the Nizam asked Nana, what he had written on the subject of his going to Benares and what he himself should write. He replied, that he had long had it in intention to repair thither, that on this occasion he wished Perseram Bhow and Hurry Pundit to take upon them the internal management of affairs, and Sindia, who was closely connected with the Chiefs of Hindostan to undertake the arrangement of the affairs of government but that the latter wanted to take leave to go and celebrate his marriage at Jaum-Gown, and Hurry Pundit opposed the plea of ill-health, so that nothing had been resolved upon, else that he (Nana) would have taken leave of the Peshwa.

Sindia desired Ramjee Puttail etc. to tell Nana, that it was unbecoming their friendship to retard his (Sindia's) dismissal, and interrupt the celebration of the marriage at the suggestions of interested people that this matter must be brought about.

Nana and Gobind Row Bugwunt were in private together. It is said that Gobind Row brought a message from the Nizam expressive of a desire to meet the Peshwah, and that Nana replied it was his wish also, but it must not take place till the negotiations were concluded. It is further said that he has brought a draft upon the Nizam of Hyderabad to the amount of Rs 4,70,900. In regard to Sindia's desire of going to Jaumgown to celebrate his marriage, the Ministers say that it is the Peshwah's pleasure that it be celebrated at Poona, that the vakeels of the Nizam are come together to discuss the affair of the jaggeer of 60 lacks and adjust matters, and a negociation was accordingly begun; that the Nizam was willing to cede a jaggeer of thirty lacks, on condition of a release from all demands, that the affair of Gobind Row Guicawar (the rightful head of the Government, but dispossessed by his younger brother who has not paid half of the fixed Moamila at Poona) is also coming on; that Sindia must in person decide upon these two points, and that from the money arising out of these two negotiations his (Sindia's) expenses would not be overlooked. Bauboo Tantea (Baloba Tatya ?) represented on the part of Lalloo Bhayee that he had agreed to the Moamila of the last year as directed by him (Sindia) and that for the next year would also be fixed, but that Lulhoo was desirous that Sindia would make him a visit, to which, he replied that altho' his (Sindia's) going was not very suitable, yet to gratify him (Bauloo) he would go after the settlement of the Moamila. It is said the Poona Ministers have it in intention to send for Gobind Row Guicawar. Sindia conversed in private with Baboo Row and Kulleaun Row on the subject of the adjustment of the negotiations with the Nizam through him (Sindia) and of the demand for Pergunnah Bindah. It should seem Lalloo Bhace's Moamila was fixed for the last year at 15 lacks. Sindia is greatly incensed against Bhow Bukshee for not only not informing him that he had so productive a place Broach in his possession, but flatly denying that it was so.

**No. 158**—Palmer gives G. G. his opinion about Sindia's honesty of purpose and straightforward conduct towards the Company.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Ogene, 27 December 1792.*

I have the honor to transmit a copy of Mhadjee Sindia's answer to my last application respecting the King's sunnuds for the Nabob of Surat. I shall immediately dispatch advice of it to Mr. Griffiths as by your

Lordship's late instructions it will now be at the option of the Nabab to receive or decline them

I can discover no other motive for the procrastinations of this trifling business than the obtaining an increase of the Nuzzuiana, the preemptory refusal of which and the knowledge of your Lordship in difference on the subject has, as I expected, produced a compliance with the first offer

Sindia is averse to my retiring from his southern dominions and earnestly entreats me to remain here or in this neighbourhood until he returns, which he says will be soon. As I have always experienced from him the greatest attention to my personal accommodation, I can only impute his declining to comply with my requests on this occasion to the apprehension of the consequences which my return might have on his influence and interest in the Deccan, and I am persuaded that such apprehension will attend every measure that has a tendency to mark distrust or dissatisfaction in your Lordship towards him and will always operate to prevent his intentionally giving you serious or lasting cause for those sentiments. I trouble your Lordship with the repetition of an opinion which I have often given, because the conduct of Sindia in receiving ambassadors from Tipoo appears to Sir Charles Malet to contradict the principles and professions of Sindia on which I have founded it.

If the intercourse lately established between him and Tipoo is inconsistent with his obligations as a member of the Mahratta state in its present circumstances of connection with the Company and with any communications to the Poona Ministry of delay or infraction of the treaty of Seringapatam by Tipoo, it should I think be ascertained that such communications have been imparted to Sindia before any degree of blame can be imputed to him or before it can be supposed it would occur to him that your Lordship would expect an explanation of his conduct in a measure to which his own Government though equally affected by it, had taken no exception

Sindia is without doubt directly and separately accountable to your Lordship for every engagement and project which he may enter into detrimental to the interests and tranquility of the Company; but the suspicion of such on the mere report of frequent conferences cannot, I think, be fairly admitted in contradiction to his general and recent professions of good faith and unalterable attachment

It appears to me that these remarks which I have presumed to offer to your Lordship only upon motives of equity and impartiality, are corroborated by the actual situation of Sindia, nor can I discuss any other in which he is likely to be placed or to which he aspires that would induce him to think it for his advantage to violate his existing engagements to the Company.

No 159—Cornwallis writing to Malet declines to entertain the Maratha claim for Chauth against Tipu, offers to settle any dispute about it against the Nizam by friendly mediation, and authorizes Malet to distribute presents to the Peshwa, the ministers and Bahiro Pant. The British power thus assumed the position of mediators between the various Indian Chiefs

FROM—CORNWALLIS,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET BART, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 4th January 1793*

Sir,

I have received your letters

It may be advisable to defer the discussion of all points of importance with the Peshwa's Government, until the present struggle between the political parties shall be decided, but in the event of the question whether the Marattas have a right to demand Chout or Kundnee from Tippoo being at any time agitated I wish it to be explicitly declared, to whichever of the parties may ultimately acquire the ascendancy, that this Government neither considers itself bound by treaty, nor will ever be induced to support any pecuniary claim of the Peshwa's upon Tippoo, beyond that which was specifically mentioned in the treaty of Seringapatam.

I am at present so imperfectly acquainted with the extent and the nature of the Peshwa's pecuniary claims upon the Nizam, that I cannot form an opinion upon them but if applied to for that purpose by the parties, as I shall always be ready to assist in bringing them to an adjustment by a friendly mediation.

Mr. Hay was directed some time ago to transmit to you the sanction of this Government for the payment of the Peshwa's donation to the Bombay detachment, and, as you have had so much experience of the disposition and customs of the principal people of the Durbar where you reside, and as I have a perfect reliance upon your prudence in conducting all points of business or ceremony with them, I shall leave it entirely to your discretion to give the invitation that you propose, to the Peshwa and his ministers, and to take that opportunity of making them the complimentary presents that you think will be most suitable to the dignity of the Company's Government, and best adapted for gratifying all in general and for fulfilling the expectation of Behroo Punt in particular

You are therefore at liberty to make use of the whole or a part of the sum that you may receive as the balance of the Company's account with the Peshwa, for the above purposes; but I must confess that, from the opinion which I have formed of the character and propositions of a Bramin Minister, I have great doubts in my own mind whether any present that could be given with propriety in the presence of the Peshwa and the other



Ministers (according to the idea mentioned in your letter of the 23<sup>d</sup> of November to Mr Cheriy), will be completely satisfactory to Behroo Punt, if he shall have indulged himself in the notion that his services and conduct, in his intercourse with you, have given him a claim to reward from this Government

I approve entirely of your having declined all communication with the Vizier's brother.

No 160—These are three letters addressed by Tukoji Holkar to his agents at Calcutta requesting them to negotiate for British help in chastising Sindia, who is declared to be an enemy of the Company also. These papers prove how the Maratha Confederacy was falling to pieces.

(I) *Translation of a letter from Tocojee Holkar to his Vakeel (Baburau) in Calcutta.*

*Received 8th January 1793.*

At this time disputes have arisen between Scindea's and my troops, and Scindea has left nothing undone in his unkindness. Scindea and I have been long on terms of friendship, and I submitted to a great deal rather than allow our intimacy to be injured. His troops forfeiting their pledges, prepared to commence a civil war. I then considered it unnecessary to submit in silent grief any longer, and consequently I made serious preparations. As a friendship has long subsisted between the Governor General and the Sirkar, he must apply a remedy to this case. I have accordingly addressed a letter to him, and write to you. You will deliver the letter and represent to him how long the intimacy has subsisted between us, and endeavour to persuade him towards this business. The English forces are arrived at Illahabad and intend to proceed towards Hindostan. You must procure a letter from thence to them, directing to raise commotions in Scindea's country under the pretence that Scindea is detained at Poona, and that they afford me assistance in the manner that I shall write to them. You must not delay in this business and write me what is determined on immediately.

(II) *Translation of a letter from Tocojee Holkar's Munshi addressed to the Vakeel in Calcutta.*

You will have heard of the disputes which have arisen between Scindea and Holkar. Considering the firm friendship between the two Sircars and that in particular with Holkar, it is necessary, in order to confirm it, that the English should incline towards this side; and for this purpose Holkar has written a letter to Lord Cornwallis and another to you; you must peruse it; and agreeable to the items stated in a separate paper, you must

state the particulars of friendship through Mr Cherry, and deliver the letter to the Governor General, represent every matter and persuade him towards this quarter, that the friendship between them may be increased, that their enemies in this quarter may be subdued by mutual aid, that their aid may be granted in the present dispute, and our enemies may be repulsed by our joint counsels. You must converse on this subject, and arrange matters so that whatever be determined on may be speedily executed here. For this purpose cosids are sent. You must ascertain the disposition there and write every particular, matters shall be conducted accordingly. You must state very fully everything relating to friendship which has been formerly written, and endeavour to procure speedy assistance for this quarter.

(III) *Paper accompanying the letter from Tocojee Holcar to his Vakeel and referred to in it*

Probably Scindea has persuaded the English that a firm friendship subsists between Tippoo and me. Altho' you have explained this matter to them, perhaps they are not yet satisfied on this point. It is a maxim with me never to deviate from my word, but I cannot submit to the prevarications of others. Seeing that he (Tippoo) repeated his treachery several times, I withdrew from all connection with him. The English will have become masters of everything from their experience during the late war. When Scindea returned from the war at Jypore, the English did not assist him, and he fled from Jypore, and in recollection of this, Scindea wished to persuade the Peshwa not to assist the English in the war against Tippoo, but at Poona they were desirous as well as myself that Scindia should not have any interference in that business. Scindea threw many obstacles in the way of the alliance that was ultimately formed. In spite of his remonstrances, the end of it was attained, and Scindea was much vexed, he went from hence to prevent the success of it and to delay a peace, but matters were adjusted before he arrived. This thorn still remains in his side, and he is engaged in endeavouring to overthrow the peace which has been concluded. The English Government will have been informed of this from other quarters. They are certainly acquainted with his infidelity and his general conduct, and they will be still more aware of it. Hurry Punt has repeatedly informed me of his Lordship's courage, his conduct and his virtues, and of Mr. Cherry's behaviour, and I know their friendly disposition from their letters. I am very desirous for a meeting with them. Should they state to you that they are friends with Scindea and with me, then you will explain these particulars to them, and state to them that every point will be seen from considering these particulars. A treacherous friend is worse than a faithless servant, and he should be punished by every means possible. You will personally represent all these matters.

**No. 161.**—Tukoji Holkar writing to the G. G. makes a covert appeal for British help to put down Sindia

FROM—TUCKOJEE HOLKAR,  
TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

*Received 9th January 1793.*

Prior to this I addressed a letter to your Lordship in reply to a former, the contents of which will have appeared. At present the state of affairs is thus, your Lordship must have heard from the news-papers of the disputes and contentions that have lately taken place between Sindia's officers and the troops of the Sucar. There is therefore no occasion to repeat them. As the Company have of old been upon terms of the strictest friendship with me, and your Lordship has come to this country, the more the obligations of alliance are fulfilled, the more will it tend to strengthen our ancient union and attachment. Further particulars will be made known to your Lordship from a letter to Baboo Row. Considering me always anxious to hear news of that quarter, continue to gratify me by demonstrations of friendship.

**No. 162.**—Malet reports to the G. G. that a relation of the Peshwa's wife put himself under the protection of Sindia to escape punishment by the Minister.

FROM—C. W. MALET,  
TO—EARL CORNWALLIS.

*Poona, 18th January 1793.*

The preparations for the establishment of Govin-row continue to furnish conversation and to occupy men's minds at this place, but the recent absconding of a relation of the Peshwa's wife from the city to Mhadjee Sindia's camp and throwing himself on the protection of that chief which has been granted, gives additional cause to conjecture that the seeds of jealousy between the Patell and this ministry are too deeply and too inveterately rooted to admit of cordial concert in that enterprise or any other measures of political importance. Various motives are assigned for the flight of this young man, but that most generally adopted is his apprehension of the minister's resentment on being discovered as the conductor of an intrigue, by which Mhadjee Sindia was endeavouring to gain the Peshwa's ear through the channel of his (the Peshwa's) wife, but for the authenticity of this I cannot vouch.

No. 163.—In this interesting paper Paymaster Uthhoff compares the chances and emoluments of the British and the Maratha troops when on active service, and forwards his estimate of expenses to Charles Malet.

FROM—J UTHHOFF,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET BART, RESIDENT AT POONA

*Bombay, 29<sup>th</sup> January 1793.*

SIR,

I have been honored with your letter of the 15th Instant with its enclosure

In respect to the expense of a battalion of Native infantry serving with the armies of the Marattas I am of opinion that not less than 20,000 Rupees a month should be charged, and that 25,000 would not be exorbitant including two or three six-Pounders with the complement of European and Native Artillery stores, the Hospital Department and Detachment staff. The recollection of the very great loss by exchange, particularly in armies in the field, that the Company has sustained, would alone be sufficient, I should think, to induce the adoption of the mode of payment suggested regularly every month in that currency of the station where our troops may be serving, and it appears absolutely necessary to bind the Marattas to the faithful observance of this point by some specific stipulation; for notwithstanding the repeated positive orders of the Poona Government to Pursaram Bhow during the last war to pay the Bombay Detachment a certain sum of money monthly for their expenses, he paid but two months during the whole of the service, and you will be the best judge whether, from the genius of the Marattas, this may not be again expected if not specifically provided against. Though there might occasionally be a profit to the troops by being paid in the Arcot or Trinomully Rupee, this appears to me the only one advantage and that barely a possible one. Admitting this to be an advantage, the Marattas would consider it a hardship to be required to pay our troops in a coin of a superior value to the currency of the place they may be stationed at, while their own troops are almost invariably paid in coins inferior to the currency, for there is a considerable profit to the Maratta Government or to their pay agents in the exchange of money at the expense of the soldiery, and indeed there might be some difficulty in getting Arcot Rupees in the western and north-western part of the Peninsula. The currency of the station seems to be the reasonable medium. All coins fluctuate much in value in almost all towns under the country Governments and still more so in their camps. Were the Arcot Rupee or any other coin to be established as the currency in which our troops were to be paid, my experience of the chicanery of the Maratta soucars and shroffs leads me to draw a conclusion that they would contrive to debase the value of that coin below the currency of the station our troops

might be at. It has fallen within my own observation that the Aicot Rupee would at one time pass in the Marhatta Camp at a lower rate than the Chandory Rupee, which was the general currency, and at another time be 7 per cent better than the Chandory. The Madras Star Pagoda I have known to pass at one time in the Marhatta Camp at Rs. 2 as 14 and at another time at Rs 4 as 2. For very near two years that I was Paymaster to the Bombay Detachment acting with the Marhatta Army during the late war, I invariably paid the troops in the currency of the camp, whatever currency that might be, which sometimes altered. This occurred at all times perfectly satisfactory. If any of our troops want to make remittances to our own settlements, they may get bills from the Paymaster of the Detachment on those places at par.

As to the plunder or prize-money for our troops serving with the Marhattas, it seems to me difficult to draw the line, for even in our own service it is yet I understand but ill defined. The Marhattas get a good deal of plunder but it is in a very desultory manner, and in a manner that in our eyes would be dishonourable. Were our troops to join with them in it there would be an end of their discipline. The encouragements given by the Marhattas to their soldiery are opportunities of plunder in a desultory way; Zukm-Puttee or Muirum-Puttee, and allowance for wounds (no medical assistance being afforded by Government), presents on recovery occasionally, pecuniary rewards to individuals for particular services, and commands continued to the son when the father is killed in the Marhatta service. but these are all arbitrary and undefined, and more of an emolument to the heads of Corps and officers of Government than to the soldier, and I know not how they could be extended to our troops. From places that surrender, even after a long and arduous siege, the Marhatta soldiery get nothing, and the plunder that they acquire occasionally (except certain articles which go to the Sarkar) becomes either the property of individuals, or individuals of particular Corps agree to divide among themselves all their plunder, but very little attention is in general paid to this agreement when they have an opportunity of evading it without detection. As our troops acting with a Marhatta army are unavoidably precluded from the advantage of plunder or prize-money that they would enjoy if acting with an army of our own, while their service will in all probability be at least equally arduous and important, and as they are also precluded from the advantages that the Marhatta soldiery enjoy, it appears reasonable that some consideration should be made to them in lieu of those advantages, and as the justice or liberality of the country people are too precarious to be depended on, one expedient that occurs is for our own Government to estimate the consideration, in the way of donation or gratuity that our troops may appear entitled to, and pay them ourselves, to provide for which, a small

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\* जखम Jak'am means a wound

addition might be made to the monthly charge for our detachment *which 25,000 Rupees per month for each Battalion with their Guns etc* would perhaps include, but not less, and should the services of the detachment be entitled to a greater compensation *than this fund could supply*, the Maratta Government having profited by those services, might on a representation of the case to them, be induced to grant an additional donation, or our own Government would, I should think, have no objection to rewarding that merit from their own treasury. If any place should be stormed by our troops, they might, exclusive of the above be allowed the plunder\*. In the event of any of the native troops acting with our armies as auxiliaries some reciprocal consideration might be made to them agreeable to the nature of the service if precluded from the advantage they would enjoy by acting with their own armies.

No. 164.—Malet reports to Palmer the death of the Peshwa's wife, his fresh wedding and the illness of Nizam

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER

*Poona, 8th February 1793.*

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to enclose duplicates of my two addresses to the Governor General since I last troubled you under the 22nd ultimo. You will learn from your country intelligence that the death of the Peshwa's wife and his consequent nuptials with another or perhaps two others is likely to form a new cause of detraction to M Sindia, and in the interim I am led to apprehend by Sir John Kennaway's last letters of the 29th ultimo that some untoward event at Hyderabad arising from the precarious state of the Nazim's health may interpose new causes of embarrassment and delay.

I was duly favoured with your letter of the 16th ultimo and forwarded the enclosure for Mr. Griffith the same day by post to Bombay. I am inclined to think with you that the stories of the treasures deposited in Cumbulneer† are rather to be ranked with the legendary tales of the country than entitled to serious attention. Its ancient prosperity seems to have survived in the credulity of the people of the country (owing to) the long interval that has elapsed in its decay.

The horrid situation of affairs in France when our last advices left Europe make me extremely anxious for further intelligence from that quarter, and I cannot help hoping that the progress of the allies will have resettled that unhappy kingdom in a tolerable degree of tranquillity before the advance of winter should have interrupted their operations in the accomplishment of so desirable an object

\* This opportunity would in all probability be seldom afforded them and when afforded on occasions only in which the service was too arduous for Maratta troops (original comment).

† Kamalneer, a fort in Rajputana, better known as Kumbha'garh in the n. w. corner of Mewar

No. 165.—Kennaway writes to the G. G. on the wording of the Treaty of guarantee and communicates to him in addition the reconciliation effected between Nana and Haripant Phadke

FROM—CAPT. KENNAWAY,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL

*Hyderabad, 9th February 1793*

I had the honor to address your Lordship the 28th ultimo on the subject of the Nizam's indisposition, since which it is said that his health has improved, but such precautions are taken to conceal what the state of it really is, that very little dependance is to be placed on the reports that are circulated concerning it. From the circumstance however of his having been abroad at an entertainment at the Minister's gardens since my last, I should suppose he is better.

I have the honor to enclose a copy of my letter of the 7th instant to Sir Charles W. Malet, since which having obtained copies of Pundit Perdhaun's address to the Nizam on the subject of the Guarantee Treaty, and His Highness's reply, I enclose translates of them, the mention made in the former of some words falling from your Lordship on the subject, on the armies separating from each other, refers, I imagine, to what passed between Hurry Punt and Meer Allum in consequence of the conversation between myself and the latter concerning it.

Should it be your Lordship's intention as Sir Charles Malet in his letter of the 30th January supposes, that I should furnish him indiscriminately with copies of all your Lordship's letters to me, you will please to let me know. I have no other objection to it, than that not conceiving the expression in your Lordship's letter of the 9th December sufficiently clear, there being, from the relative situation of the two Dubais few points that can enter into your correspondence with either of us that may not immediately or remotely have a reference to the other.

In a conversation which I had yesterday with Meer Allum he acquainted me of the Minister's having received intelligence that Balajee, in consequence of a reconciliation with Hurry Punt, (a misunderstanding with whom was the chief cause of his thinking of retiring), had entirely relinquished his intention of visiting Benaras, that he (the Minister) had also been informed by Sindia, that though he saw little prospect of succeeding in the design for which he visited the Dekkan, yet having undertaken the journey at such a sacrifice of time, expense and of the pressing and important affairs which required his presense in Hindustan, he was determined to remain some time longer to see what could yet be effected, but this declaration, Meer Allum said, he conceived was thrown out merely to deprive the Minister of any hope he might entertain of being able to evade the liquidation of the balance of the 25 lacs amounting I believe to about 7 lacs due to Sindia, by the latter's departure.

No. 166.—The Persian Translator at the desire of the G. G. discusses the proper style of address for the Peshwa and informs Malet what form should be adopted.

FROM—THE PERSIAN TRANSLATOR TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Calcutta, 28th February 1793.*

I have been honored by the receipt of your letter of the 25th January last, which with your former letters dated 29th July 1792, and with my address to you of the 21st September 1792, have been submitted to the consideration of the Governor General

The customs of eastern etiquette requiring that a letter of condolence be written by his Lordship to the Peshwa on the death of his wife, I now enclose one with a copy in Persian for your information.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reply to your letter of the 25th January last, that I may explain the address used in this letter to the Peshwa, which is the same as was used in the last to him.

In my former correspondence with you on this subject, I have explained the motive which induced me to adopt the titles conferred with the office of Vakeel-al-Muttu-luk, in the room of which, however, at the particular instigation of the Durbar conveyed to me in your letter of the 29th July 1792 the ancient form was substituted. His Lordship has now directed me to inform you of his inclination to conform in these points to the Peshwa's wishes, confident that every attention will be paid by the Durbar to the relative situations of both states, and in the present instance he is equally willing to comply with their request that the titles annexed to the office of Vakeel-al-Muttu-luk, except the words Wuffadai and Furzund may be used. Considering, however, that when these titles were voluntarily applied by this Government it was the wish of the Durbar to revert to the ancient style of address which was agreed to, and that the use of those titles annexed to the new office may be construed into a tacit acknowledgement of the office by the English Government, which may be converted into a precedent to be suggested to other powers, his Lordship conceives (as a matter of political import tho' not of very essential consequence perhaps) that the usual forms in such cases should be adhered to in the first instance. Whether these forms be a notification of the office conferred, being made by the King, by the Peshwa as Vakeel-ul-Muttu-luk or by the use of the titles in his (the Peshwa's) own seal, I presume you will be able to ascertain at Poona; for I do not recollect any precedent for many years of importance sufficient to become a rule in the present instance.



Should the Durbar, therefore, on observing the address used to the letter now transmitted make any remarks of the little attention paid to their remonstrances, the Governor General wishes that you should point out to them that the titles to the new office, which were once voluntarily used from hence, have been laid aside at their desire ; that the adoption of them generally throughout Hindoostan and the Deccan would be a precedent which his Lordship is ready to observe, and that the Peshwa has not hitherto adopted them in his own seals

I am further directed to observe to you that his Lordship declines to refer to any former usage when the patents from the King of Delhi may have gone thro' the office of the Vizier, as the argument might lead to a controversy inconsistent with the present powers of that office, the relative situation of the Vizier to our Government and the situation of the Poona State in Hindostan, and particularly as a recent instance in the sunnuds for the Nawab of Surat has proved the inutility of such attention to the former customs of the Court of Delhi, which in regard to the Nawab of Surat, was accompanied with considerable trouble and might have been attended with unnecessary and heavy expense

I have the pleasure to transmit a copy of the style of address used between the Peshwa and the Governor General prior to the arrival of Lord Cornwallis, from Mr. Hastings to the Peshwa in 1780, and from the Peshwa to Mr. Hastings at that time, from Sir John Macpherson to the Peshwa and from the Peshwa to Sir John Macpherson in 1785, which is the same as was used during Mr. Hastings' administration.

**No. 167.**—Intimation is given to Malet that Lord Cornwallis was made a Marquis.

FROM—SECRETARY TO GOVT,

TO—Sir C. W. MALET, Bt., RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Calcutta Council Chamber, 4th March 1793.*

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor General in Council to acquaint you that His Majesty has been pleased to advance Earl Cornwallis to the dignity of a Marquis of Great Britain, and that you are desired to attend to the necessary alteration occasioned thereby in the form of your addresses to his Lordship in Council.

No. 168.—Cornwallis writes to Malet intimating the appointment of Shore to succeed him and that Shore would soon arrive from England. Malet was desired to communicate the news to the Peshwa.

FROM—MARQUIS CORNWALLIS,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET.

*Fort William, 5th March 1793.*

I desire that you will communicate to the Peshwa and his Ministers that I have received information, by a packet just arrived from Europe, that, in consequence of my request to be left at liberty to return to England to attend to my private affairs, Mr. Shore has been appointed to succeed to the office of Governor General upon my resignation, and that Mr. Shore may be daily expected in this country. You may, at the same time, give them the strongest assurances from me that from my knowledge of Mr. Shore's disposition and character, they may have an entire dependence that he will spare no pains to cultivate and improve the good understanding and friendship which so happily subsist between the Peshwa and the English Nation, and that, in order to have time to arrange the articles of the proposed Treaty of guarantee, and to give a full explanation to Mr. Shore on every point that concerns the interests of the two states, it is my intention to remain in this country till the month of August next.

You may also inform the Ministers that General Abercromby has been appointed to succeed me in the Command of all our troops in India and to become a member of this Government, but that a successor had not been nominated to General Abercromby in the Government of Bombay when the last accounts left England.

No. 169.—Malet informs the G. G. how Mahadji Sindia successfully interposed in securing the person of the Sachiv from the custody of Nana's guards.

FROM—Mr. C W. MALET,

TO—MARQUIS CORNWALLIS, K. G., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 29th March 1793.*

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To the numerous seeds of discontent that have been long sown and germinating between the Peshwa's Ministry and Mhadjee Sindia, a very serious one has been recently added, by the Ministry's violent seizure (on grounds with which I am not clearly acquainted) of the Seycheev, a descendant of one of the eight great Officers or Purdhauns of the Marratta Rajahs, some of whose adherents having made their escape threw themselves under the protection of Mhadjee Sindia, who immediately granted it and as readily extended it to their confined master, whose release he demanded and has in fact extorted from the Ministry.

Pecuniary considerations in getting the large sums offered by the Seychev's adherents are said to have influenced the Patell on the occasion, but it appears to me that the premunire to which the Ministry was reduced by the necessity of defending a very unpopular measure, or of yielding to his authoritative interposition, induced him to risk the alternative of breaking at once with the Ministry in a popular cause, or of gaining a step in the grand object of ascendancy, by the eclat of forcing it to a compliance with his demand.

The latter case has ensued and Kistna Chitneese was dispatched last night at 8 o'clock to Jajooree, about 17 miles hence, with 2,000 infantry and 400 horse, to receive from the Government's guards the person of the Seycheev, of whose old hereditary pretensions in the Empire it is difficult to surmise what use the Patell will make in his farther designs of working on this Court and bending it to his views.

To apprehensions of a similar nature with respect to the person of Badjerou, the son of the late Ragonaut Row, it now seems reasonable to impute his having been lately moved by order of the Minister from Copurgaum to Nasseeck, in the near neighbourhood of the strong fort of Trimbuck.

**No. 170.**—Palmer communicates to the G. G. his views about the designs of Mahadji Sindhia in his stay in the south and his dealings at the Peshwa's Court.

FROM—W PALMER,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS, G. G.

*Ujjain, 1st April 1793.*

I regret that it is not in my power to give your Lordship such authentic information of the actual situation and designs of Sindia in the Deccan as might afford you some certainty of the effects which they are likely to produce on the general politics of India. Perhaps his real views may be better discovered by an attention to his character, than by any positive reports of his projects or proceedings, as the last are probably calculated to conceal his intentions. His unquenchable thirst of power, and the circumstances of the Poona Government when he commenced his journey to the capital, make it highly probable, that his principal objects were to obtain personal ascendancy over the mind of the Paishwa, and the chief direction of his councils. The unexpected return of his great rival Hurry Punt Furkia, with increased reputation and influence, has, it may be presumed, obstructed his views, but I am mistaken if he has totally relinquished them or will do so without a very serious struggle. His perseverance in remaining so long at Court under great difficulties and disadvantages without having apparently advanced one step in his designs is a strong indication of his being determined to persist at all risks. I understand that he considers the removal of Hurry Punt as indispensable

to his success, but of his power to effect it your Lordship is better informed than I can pretend to be. I am told however that the Minister is secretly disposed to assist him in supplanting Hurry Punt in favour of Moraba Furnavees a near relation of Nana, who has been many years in confinement for supporting the attempts of Ragoba upon the Government. I also learn that Sindia and Hurry Punt are extremely suspicious of the most violent intentions against each other, against which they mutually guard with the utmost vigilance and precaution.

Should Sindia establish a superior influence in the Mahratta State, he is likely to be detained there by several objects of importance which the present state of political interests in the Deccan, offer to his ambition and rapacity. But without such prospects, I imagine, the situation of his affairs in Hindustan would engage his immediate attention as I have no reason that he intends to abandon his interests in that quarter, but to defer the care of them until he has accomplished his views in the Deccan.

Tookojee Holkar either wants the means or is not inclined at his own charge, to give any further disturbance to Sindia, and there is no appearance of his being assisted either from Poona or any of the Rajahs of Hindustan. I learn that Nana Furnavees has undertaken to adjust the dispute, but I believe that both parties are suspicious of his intentions and inclined to be reconciled without his mediation.

Sindia's possessions and authority in Hindustan do not appear to be in any immediate danger from any hostile attempts whatever, but rapidly to decline by mismanagement, and I am inclined to think that his distress on this account is partly affected to conceal the real value of his acquisitions from the Government at Poona.

Upon the fullest consideration which I am capable of bestowing upon the subject, I am persuaded that there is little cause for apprehension, that the interests or tranquillity of the Company or its allies will be affected either by design or consequence, by the schemes of Sindia in the Deccan whether he succeeds in them or should be disappointed.

**No. 171.**—Cornwallis informs the Peshwa of his having been succeeded by Sir John Shore.

FROM—MARQUIS CORNWALLIS,

TO—THE PESHWA.

*Calcutta, 1st April 1793.*

Having some time ago made application that a successor may be appointed to take charge of the Government of the Company's offices on my embarkation for Europe, I have now received advices from England informing me that my request has been complied with and Sir John Shore,

who before was a member of the Council and was united with me in this Government, is appointed to succeed me in the office of Governor General and is arrived at Calcutta for that purpose.

Considering the season of the year unfavourable at present to embark for Europe, I have determined to wait four or five months, when it will be more suitable to undertake the voyage, and shall avail myself of the interim to communicate fully with Sir John Shore on all points relating to the connection between you and the Company.

Altho' Sir John Shore during the period that he was a member of this Government was fully informed of the friendly system that existed between us, and was desirous equally with myself that this system should increase daily, yet in consideration that the benefits of a good understanding will be much increased by assurances that its continuance in full force is anxiously desired on both sides, I think it therefore necessary to assure you that Sir John Shore on taking charge of the Government will be equally attentive as myself to the rules of friendship and good faith, and equally desirous to cultivate the intimacy which prevails at present between us. Accompanying I have the pleasure to transmit you a letter from him, from which you will be assured of his friendly sentiments; and until the period shall arrive when I shall resign the affairs of Government to him, I trust that you will be convinced of the continuance of my friendship and I hope to be frequently made happy with the news of your health.

To—Nana Purnavees and Hurry Punt of the same tenor and date.

**No. 172.**—Malet reports to Palmer Sindia's position in Poona.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER.

*Poona, 2 April 1793.*

Since my last of 25th ultimo I have been favoured with yours of the 15th advising the commencement of your march to the north, and in which you will be accompanied with my hearty good wishes that you may derive every beneficial effect from the change of air and the easy stages by which, I presume, you will prosecute your journey.

Ere this reaches you, intelligence will probably have been received by you of Sir John Shore's arrival in Calcutta on the 10th ultimo and of Lord Cornwallis' resolution to remain in India till the month of August.

I have thought it necessary to add to my usual duplicate of my addresses to the Governor General copy of a recent letter from me to the Bombay Board, which will make you acquainted with a late application from Mhadjee Sindia and which, notwithstanding my wish to avoid noticing, his importunity would not admit of.

From Mhadji Sindia's adoption of the Sachiv's cause you will observe that former embarrassments have not dumped his ardour for new undertakings. The present one has at least the merit of popularity.

I am much gratified by your obliging promise of continuing to favour me with your correspondence, which I can with truth assure you always has and ever will be highly estimable to me on grounds of personal regard and public information, to which is now to be added the anxiety with which I shall expect accounts of the improvements of your health and the progress of your journey.

**No. 173.**—Major Palmer, Resident with Sindia, writes to the G. G. about the approaches made by Holkar for British mediation with Mahadji Sindia.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Camp Ooniara, 4 April 1793.*

My Lord,

I have been honored with your Lordship's commands of the 5th ultimo, and have made the communications therein directed to Mahajee Sindia.

On my arrival at Kotah, a Vakeel came to me from Tookojee Holkar, sent expressly to desire an interview with me in his camp, for the purpose of mediating a reconciliation between him and Sindia, observing that he had declined the proffered interposition of the Paishwa's Ministers and would treat through no other than that of your Lordship.

I replied that I would inform your Lordship of the Soubahdar's wish to obtain your good offices towards composing his differences with the Patil, which I knew you observed with a friendly concern but that I apprehend the only condition on which you would judge it proper to interfere, was the voluntary request of both parties.

With respect to his desire that I should visit him I answered that I would certainly have paid my respects to him in person if his camp had lain near my route, but as it was at the distance of twenty-four coss, Sindia would probably suspect a partiality unfavourable to his interests, if I should go so far out of my way to meet him which might defeat the purpose he intended by it. At the same time I assured him that it would afford me real satisfaction to be instrumental in effecting his object, if I should receive your Lordship's instructions to negotiate it.

It may not be improper to acquaint your Lordship that on my journey hitherto by the road of Kotah and Bhoondy, I have experienced from the petty Rajahs of those districts and of this, who are all tributary to the Mahrattas, an attention and hospitality which strongly marks their respect for the character of the British nation and Government in India.

There is at present no appearance of Sindia's return to Hindustan, and I am inclined to think the delay is occasioned rather by views of his own in the Deccan than by compulsion from the Paishwa's Durbar as is generally supposed, as I cannot see why he should submit to the great disadvantages under which he labours in his present situation, without ample compensation in prospect.

**No. 174.**—Shore gives an assurance to the Peshwa of his wish to cultivate the friendship of the Marathas.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—THE PESHWA.

*Calcutta, 4th April 1793*

The Marquis Cornwallis having some time ago made application that a successor may be appointed to take charge of the Company's affairs on his embarkation for Europe, I have the pleasure to inform you that I am appointed to succeed his Lordship in the office of Governor General. Considering the season of the year unfavourable at present to embark for Europe, his Lordship has thought proper to remain for four or five months, when it will be more suitable to undertake the voyage

In consideration that the benefits of a good understanding will be much heightened by conviction that its continuance in full force is anxiously desired on both sides, I think it necessary to assure you of my earnest desire to increase the friendship between us, and to preserve the reputation of the English Government by arts of confidence and good faith, and that on his Lordship's departure when I shall take charge of the affairs of Government, I shall apply myself to the strict performance of all subsisting engagements and to the cultivation of friendship and unanimity.

I hope to be frequently made happy with letters mentioning your health.

To—Nana Purnavees and Hurry Punt of the same tenor and date.

**No. 175.**—In this important communication Malet conveys to the G. G. several causes of friction between Nana and Mahadji and his own views about the relations existing between the young Peshwa and Nana.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—MARQUIS CORNWALLIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 5 April 1793.*

My Lord,

Agreeable to the notice conveyed in my last address of 1st instant, I visited the Minister in the afternoon, and fully explained to him the substance of your Lordship's commands of 5th ultimo, relative to your

intended departure, and the succession of Sir John Shore to the Government General, all which he received with such professions as clearly evinced how sensibly he felt this new instance of your Lordship's sincere disposition to increase, even in the moment of departure, that cordial amity which has been so happily re-established and cemented between the two states during your administration

I then produced the articles of Defensive Alliance lately furnished me by your Lordship, and after reading and deliberately explaining each article, the whole of which was heard by the Minister without any expression of objection or approbation, though with some occasional conversation with Hurry Punt and Behroo Punt, I begged his sentiments for your Lordship's information.

The Minister, after signifying his satisfaction at being thus explicitly furnished with your Lordship's sentiments, observed, that the subject being of a deliberative nature and involving the interests of a third power (the Nizam), required mature consideration and consultation with that Prince. On this ground, the Minister declined giving me an answer for the present with an assurance, that the Durbar's decision should be signified to me as soon as practicable consistent with the above circumstances, in which I endeavoured to confirm him by reminding him of the early period fixed for your Lordship's departure.

Nothing material has occurred here since my last. The Minister, in the prosecution of the line he has adopted of disavowing the late violences done to the Seycheev's person and family, has been under the necessity of shewing much severity to men of some consequence amongst his adherents, by which means, as all power in governments like this must be that of a party, I apprehend the spirit and vigor of the Minister will be much checked, which it may be apprehended will not be very disagreeable to the young Peshwa, when exclusive of the dangerous suggestions of the passior's incident to his age, we recollect how constantly and powerfully these passions must be goaded to an assumption of independence by numbers of interested men about his person, whose prospects are bounded by the present influence of the Minister, and can be extended only by the removal of him and his followers from the distribution and possession of the honors and emoluments of Government.

The rigid and economical sway of the Minister seems also heterogeneous to the wild desultory and avaricious spirit of his nation, and most men's minds seem to be prepared for and to be in expectation of scenes of greater license, and of more uncontrolled gratification than has been admitted by the jealous circumspection of the Minister's administration.

It is not to be supposed that Mahadjee Sindia will be backward to take every advantage of such a state of the Prince's mind or the popular bias, or that he will be slow to stimulate both, by contrasting the obnoxious



parts of the Minister's administration with the military license of his own, and with the liberality with which he shares the glory and profit of foreign conquest with the followers of his fortunes and the partners of his toils

I confess, my Lord, that the subversion of the Minister's influence would give me some cause of concern, since, exclusive of that dependance which his former measures ought to give us on the future conduct of this state under his direction, I see no prospect of the affairs of this Durbar being managed with a similar degree of consistency and moderation under any other administration, or that the wildness of its spirit, prompted by the boundlessness of ancient and recent pretension, would be containable within the limits of good order and good neighbourhood.

The seeds however of domestic dissension are thickly and deeply sown in the Marratta system (if system it may be called), and it is perhaps as good a security as any that their neighbours can have that the whole of its parts, composed as it now is, cannot be brought into cordial coalition, while the reduction of the whole to such a state of obedience to the power paramount as to bring it to that state of coalition, presents a previous enterprize pregnant with all those dangers, delays, and uncertainties, with which history presents us in the struggles between the kings and vassals of feudatory associations.

**No. 176.**—Kennaway informs the G. G. how the Nizam's minister Azim-ul-Umra was promoting a friendly understanding with Sindia in order to put down the influence of Nana at the Peshwa's Court.

FROM—SIR JOHN KENNAWAY,

TO—MARQUIS CORNWALLIS.

*Hyderabad, 6 April 1793.*

My Lord,

I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship that Babaa Row, his Highness's Vakeel with Mahajee Sindia, was yesterday introduced at the Durbar and that the march to Bider seems finally determined as far as a measure can be said to be so, about which his Highness appears indifferent, which is warmly opposed by the women of his family and which has solely the Minister's influence for its support

Meer Allum came to me yesterday from the latter and after mentioning the seizure of the Purdhan (Sachiv?) by Balajee Pundit, as detailed by Sir Charles Warre Malet in his address to your Lordship of the 19th ultimo, acquainted me that as in consequence of that and other circumstances an open rupture appeared unavoidable between Sindia and the Poonah Minister, his Highness moved by the ancient friendship subsisting between him and Pundit Purdhan, had it in contemplation to proceed in person to the Marratta Capital for the purpose of mediating between the hostile parties, and that the Minister was desirous of learning my sentiments of this intention.

From the first period of my perceiving the close intercourse that was forming between Azem-ul-Omrah and Sindia to the prejudice of Balajee Pundit, which happened previous to Meer Allum proceeding to attend your Lordship in the field, being aware of the just and pacific views of your Lordship's Government, and how essential the countenance of the present Poona Minister in power might be to their success, I have, in my confidential conversations with Meer Allum and also with Azem-ul-Omrah himself, taken frequent opportunities of pointing out to them as far as was consistent with the caution and delicacy necessary to be observed on this subject with respect to Sindia, how much it promoted the prosperity of the Nizam's Government to cultivate and improve a good understanding with Balajee Pundit, and how destructive a rupture with him might prove to his Highness's affairs.

I am sorry however to observe to your Lordship that these representations appear to have had little effect on Azem-ul-Omrah, who, influenced by his natural impetuosity, and not duly weighing the consequences which his measures might lead to, appears to have urged on and to be still provoking by his connection with Sindia, the rupture which I wished him to avoid; on which account it may perhaps appear to your Lordship advisable that I should speak to him in a firmer tone, and on your Lordship's behalf of the impolicy of his proceedings and how impossible it will be, in any dispute with the Marrattas hereafter, that you can interfere with your good offices in the Nizam's behalf after the wanton provocation which his conduct will have given them.

On the present occasion I contented myself with barely observing to Meer Allum that if it was the Nizam's intention to proceed to Poona only as a mediator, it appeared to me to be necessary that he should in the first instance receive from both the parties a formal invitation to take upon himself that office, that if he proceeded on any other grounds it would be declaring himself a party and consequently an enemy, instead of the friendly character which he proposed to assume, and that these I could give him as your Lordships' sentiments as well as my own.

**No. 177.**—This letter from Kennaway to Cornwallis exposes an intrigue of Azim-ul-Umra to put down the influence of Nana with the help of Sindia.

FROM—JOHN KENNAWAY,

TO—MARQUIS CORNWALLIS.

*Hyderabad, 10 April 1793.*

My Lord,

I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship that the Nizam moved to his tents yesterday, and designs proceeding on his march to Bider tomorrow or the day after.

Meer Allum has informed me that in consequence of the answer I gave to the Minister's message as mentioned to your Lordship in my address of the 6th instant, the latter demanded of Sindia's Vakeel whether his master could not procure from the Peishwah an invitation to his Highness to Poona for the purpose of interfering in the disputes among his Ministers, but that the Vakeel answered it was impossible.

The Minister seems to have proceeded too far in his measures against Balajee Pundit to think of retracting, and Meer Allum informs me he thinks his Highness's stay at Bider, previous to his visiting the Mahratta Capital will be for no longer a period than may be deemed necessary to complete his camp equipage. I cannot however persuade myself that he will really act with so much precipitation, particularly as I do not understand that Sindia has expressed any great anxiety for his presence.

At all events as I conceive the restrictions under which your Lordship agreed to my accompanying the Minister to Poonah hold equally good in regard to my attending the Nizam, and as your Lordship may think it preferable that my not attending him there should be put on the footing of the indifferent state of my health, which prevents my accompanying him even to Bider rather than on the condition of the Peishwah's consent to it, which in all probability he would decline giving, I shall remain where I am till I receive your Lordship's directions to the contrary, which I think the more advisable as one of the restrictions namely, "that a total change shall have previously taken place in the Poona Ministry", would oblige me to remain at Bider on the Nizam's moving forward, even if my health admitted of my accompanying him that far.

In a letter which Govind Row Kishen lately presented to the Nizam from Balajee Pundit, and which being in the Mahratta language he was desired to read, Balajee writes, "there were enemies of his about his Highness who were plotting against him but that the milk would soon be separated from the water (a Mahratta proverb) when those enemies would meet with their deserts." Azem-ul-Omrah immediately observed that this threat alluded to him which Govind Row Kishen neither confirmed nor denied otherwise than by his silence, and I am informed he has since transmitted another letter to his Highness from Balajee through Badshy Begum independent of the usual channel through the Minister.

It will appear extraordinary to your Lordship considering the uncertain state of the Nizam's health, Ali Jah, his eldest son, should be left in Hyderabad, and that Secunder Jah and his other sons should be taken with him.

**No. 178.**—Kennaway gives important details of Azim-ul-Umra's intrigues with Sindhia and the objects he proposed to attain with regard to the Nizam's relations with the Marathas. The causes of Azim-ul-Umra's antipathy to Nana are fully explained. The Nizam moved to Bidar

FROM—JOHN KENNAWAY,

TO—MARQUIS CORNWALLIS

*Hyderabad, 16th April 1793.*

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 26th ultimo, in consequence of which I immediately waited on the Minister and represented to him so fully in your Lordship's words with such general reasons as I thought likely to make an impression on him, the impropriety and impolicy of his taking a part or seeking to foment the animosities subsisting between Balajee Pundit and Sindia, that from the earnest and repeated assurances he gave me and desired I would give your Lordship, I am disposed to think, though he was not successful in his endeavours to exculpate himself for his past conduct, that he will refrain from any improper interference for the time to come.

He began his reply to my expostulation with stating that the enmity formerly subsisting between his Master and Sindia exceeded all bounds, but that when the latter had completely established himself in the direction of Shah Allum's affairs he thought it advisable in consequence of a Jageer, houses and tombs, etc. at and near Delhi belonging to his Highness's family which had been attached by former ministers, to conciliate his good will, in which he had succeeded in so far that all the premises had been restored, that attention to the above and other points connected with the dependance the Nizam still owed the royal authority, would ever render it his interest to keep on good terms with the Minister for the time being and that as long as Sindia held that office and no longer, it was incumbent on his Highness to preserve his friendship. On my objecting that he appeared to have gone rather great lengths in this pursuit in the sums of money he had advanced to Sindia, he mentioned the particulars of the amount which corresponded pretty nearly to what I have advised your Lordship of in my former letters, adding that he had not done it unknown to Balajee Pundit, and of what consequence one way or the other was such a sum to Sindia whose expenses incurred by his expedition to the Dekkan could not be far short of a crore of rupees.

He professed himself very ready to live on terms of harmony with Balajee Pundit as far as was consistent with his duty to his Master, and was ready to adjust the points of difference subsisting between them if your Lordship thought it worth while to bring about such a footing between them, that it was not owing to any backwardness on his part that these points, which owed their commencement to a period prior to his administration, had not

been already settled ; but that Balajee kept them alive as arguments to urge against his conduct ; that his (Balajee's) animosity to him was inveterate and originated in three causes, 1st, because during Riccun-Dowlah's long and Shumsul Omrah's short administration, but particularly during the former, the influence of the Poonah Durbar was such that its views and wishes operated as a law on this Government ; but on his coming to the management of affairs this influence was reduced to such bounds as he deemed consistent with his Master's dignity without encroaching on the friendship and attention which the two Governments owed respectively to each other , 2nd, for his complying with your Lordship's demand of the Guntoor Sircar and sending Meer Allum to Calcutta without consulting him (Balajee) ; and 3rd, for his prompt acceptance of your Lordship's overtures for engaging in the war against Tippoo without previously demanding Balajee's opinion.

In consequence of these unjust grounds of discontent all of which originated in his having solely consulted his Master's credit and interest without favor or affection to any one, Balajee, he said, had twice attempted to take advantage of domestic occurrences in his Highness's Government to remove him from his Office by making two direct applications to that effect, to both of which his Highness had given firm and decided refusals ; and that in return for such conduct he (the Minister) instead of fomenting any coolness between the Nizam and the Mahrattas, had industriously kept back from his Highness's ear many causes of complaint which they had afforded

The points in litigation between the two Durbars of the long standing above described, he added, were 1st, the Chout due for the country held by Darah Jah, the amount of which the Mahrattas insisted should be the same as was fixed by his father Bessaulat Jung although since his death that country had been considerably reduced, and 2nd, the Chout due for Bider, and the irregularities committed by the Rajah of Nagpore on the possessions of his Highness in Berar was one of the complaints the Nizam had against the Mahrattas. I requested the particulars of these general heads might be given me in writing for your Lordship's information which I was promised should be done.

The Minister asked me which of the contending parties at Poonah your Lordship wished to favor I replied that you were on terms of friendship with both and I was ignorant that you were inclined to favor one more than the other . he said he thought on the general principle of wishing well to the Peishwah's Government, you might interfere to compose its intestine disputes without favoring either party, but that if you wished to favor one more than the other, you should communicate your wishes to his Highness that he and your Lordship might act together in concert accordingly . to which I answered that your Lordship probably conceived

such interference in the domestic concerns of any state too delicate a matter to be engaged in, but that I would communicate to you what he had said on the subject.

In conclusion the Minister repeated his assurances to me that he would take no important step with respect to the Mahrattas without previously consulting your Lordship's sentiments and desired you would be perfectly satisfied on this head. The march to Bider he said should terminate with its object, namely, a change of air, and Balajee, whose letter he read to me, had expressed his approbation of it, if adopted with no other view than the benefit expected to be derived from it to his Highness's health. His Highness marched for that place this morning

**No. 179.**—In this important letter Nizam Ali advises Nana to compose his differences with Sindhia.

FROM—THE NIZAM,

TO—BALAJEE PUNDIT AND HURRY PUNDIT.

19th April 1793.

It is no secret to those possessed of wisdom and foresight and endued with consideration that when friendship and union between two states has drawn towards a solid footing and in the course of a great length of time they have established claims of friendship on each other, the prosperity of the one tends to strengthen the other and *vice versa*, that disorders in one weakens the other reciprocally. By the favor of God the friendship and union which firmly subsists between my Sircar and that of Pundit Perdhaun and the interest we mutually take in each other's concerns is the common talk of the whole world and therefore needs not further explanation or mention. In consideration of the truth of the above, the intelligence of the enmity which at this time is generally reported to have taken place, has occasioned me very great concern, for besides that every one is anxious for the prosperity of the tree of his own planting, I consider the prosperity and good order of Pundit Perdhaun's Government as tending in the greatest degree to the strength and power of my own. It is not unknown to you that in the course of former disturbances and during the enmity between our two Sircars in the country of the Dekkan, Hyder Ali Khan was a disturber who aggrandized and established himself in power. At this time by the favor of God, excellent management and proper exertions, the war with Tippoo Sultaun by means of the alliance of the three Sircars has been brought to a favorable conclusion. God in his kindness has thus favored us with the confidence and reputation which my heart desired. The report of such intelligence\* impresses me with deep apprehension lest, which God forbid, the intestine

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\* i.e. of rupture between Nana and Sindia.

disputes as formerly should tend to the aggrandizement of strangers and place the same meat in the dish as formerly. You should also weigh in the scales of consideration that from the late arrangement\* obtained by the favor of God it is evident that it is advisable for the three Sircars to encrease friendship with each other and for their mutual interests that each of their Government should prosper. As you are likewise informed of these intricacies I am satisfied that you will never be forgetful on this head or allow intestine troubles to add to the aggrandizement of strangers. For as with people of foresight even the report of such intelligence though totally void of truth is considered to be contrary to good counsel, there can be no idea of its becoming real or from a small beginning increasing to a great end. Consider duly of these matters which I have written to you merely on account of our union and the tender regard I have in your concerns. If the enmity which is so generally reported is without foundation, write me so that my mind may be at ease, and if it is founded in fact, you should in the first place by every proper means in your power exert yourself in adjusting your domestic concerns and remove the enmity, or else write me that I may attend to the adjustment and not abandon it till I have prevented this particular business from occasioning general disturbances. As the above observations originate entirely from foresight and my apprehension of consequences, you will doubtless without oversight or delay satisfy me with a speedy and favorable answer.

**No. 180.**—News of Mahadji Sindhia's friction with Nana Fadnis and of the Peshwa's mediation is forwarded by Malet to the G. G.

**PAPER OF INTELLIGENCE TRANSMITTED BY THE RESIDENT AT POONA TO THE G. G.**

*Received 12th May 1793 (at the Persian Translator's office).*

19th April 1793, Poona—Information is received of demands of Chout being made by Mulhar Holkar on the aumil of Shajehanpoor (Shujawalpur?). The letters were sent by Scindia to the Peshwa and to Nana Pharnaveese, and in consideration of the conduct of Holkar orders are issued to Ambajee to repair immediately with his force to Ugeine. Sindia directs Ramjee Pateel to inform the Peshwa and Nana Phurnaveese that hitherto he (Scindia) had passed over Tocojee Holkar's behaviour, that now Mulhar Holkar is commencing disputes in the vicinity of Ugeine and if in consequence he should be attacked by his (Sindia's) people and the issue should be unpleasant, the fault cannot be laid to Sindia.

20th April 1793. Poona—Sindia writes a private letter to the Peshwa to inform him that upwards of twelve months have elapsed since he had waited on the Peshwa but nevertheless nothing had been effected nor had

\* Alluding to the peace with Tipu.

any of his affairs been executed ; for the Peshwa's officers occasion a delay , that Sindia is happy to attend the Peshwa but his attendants cannot bear the expense nor does he succeed in any point and that he is desirous of proceeding to his religious ceremonies at Joteling. The Peshwa remarked to Nana Phurnaveese and to Harry Punt that Sindia suffers great expenses, and he asked why he is not permitted to depart. To this Nana Phurnaveese replies that reports are very current of the arrival of Tippoo and the Nizam ; that he is the Muttusuddie of the State and there is no other chief in attendance but Sindia. This answer did not satisfy the Peshwa. It was reported to Sindia that Nana Phurnaveese on returning home observed to Harry Punt that Sindia notwithstanding his heavy expenses did not relinquish his intrigues. In reply Harry Punt said that this could not last long, that he must at length submit and would ask for his leave that it would be expedient to forbid the bankers of Poona any further transaction with Sindia's Bankers. Sindia on hearing this was very thoughtful and at length observed that it was well that he had submitted with great patience and he wrote to Tippoo agreeably to the advice of his counsellors. It was reported to Sindia that Appa Bulwant Row would go to his tents on the 10th Ramzaan preparatory to taking the field against the Nizam.

**No. 181.**—Malet purposes to visit Bombay and offer congratulations to General Abercromby on his being rewarded with the Order of the Bath.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—GENERAL ABERCROMBY.

*Poona, 30th April 1793.*

I was this night made very happy by the receipt of your favor of the 25 which opened to me the prospect of being a partaker on the spot of that happiness which I am sure all ranks will feel on your being invested with the well-earned pledges of our most Gracious Sovereign's favor and approbation. But if all will rejoice in the contemplation of honors so well bestowed, I surely may be allowed a superior portion of felicity by your adoption of Marquis Cornwallis's suggestion of making me the channel of these honors from our sovereign, in the discharge of which enviable office my public feelings and personal affections will experience the highest gratification.

By the papers forwarded to you in my last and these now enclosed you will perceive that affairs are rather critical. But as I have entire reliance in the knowledge and discretion of Mr Uhthoff, I may venture to acquaint you that I shall be ready to set out from hence in five days, and of course reach Bombay in eight or at furthest nine from the receipt of any future letter from you announcing the day on which you wish the ceremony to be



solemnized, and which (considering the circumstances of our near neighbourhood to this State, and the real good policy of giving all possible eclat to such solemn acts of our sovereign, particularly in the case of your approaching translation to a station so conspicuous and so highly respectable as the command of all the British Forces in India, ought to be to all the powers of this country) should in my humble opinion be celebrated with all possible pomp and magnificence. As specimen in point is contained in Drinkwater's History of the Siege of Gibraltar, at the end of which he has inserted an account of the Investiture of General Elliot (The following portion is torn)

Since addressing you this morning, it has occurred to me that as the anniversary of none of the brilliant successes of the Bombay troops, either on the Mallabar Coast under the walls of Puttun, or with the Bhow, happens between this and the time of your intended departure, the absence of such a circumstance might be happily supplied by the event of Marquis Cornwallis's first glorious victory over Tippu on the 15th May; should this suit your convenience and meet your approval, you might convey your sentiments to me by one of my Hercules express from the Post Office in 2 days, that is (allowing this two days to reach you) on the 5th May, which would enable me to wait on you in full time for the occasion.

**No. 182.**—In reply to an enquiry, Kennaway describes to Malet the secret aims of Azim-ul-Umra in courting the friendship of Mahadji Sindhia

FROM—JOHN KENNAWAY,

TO—CHARLES MALET.

*Hyderabad, 1st May 1793*

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 22nd ultimo enclosing an extract of your private letter to the Governor General of the 19th ultimo, for which I beg leave to return you my best thanks. It is rather a difficult task to account with any great degree of consistency for the conduct of a man like Azim-ul-Umrah who does not in general appear to be governed by much of fixed principle. I am inclined to think, however, that views to his own security as connected with ensuring the succession to Secunder Jah in case of the Nizam's demise as well as to support himself whilst his Highness lives against the attempts of Balajee to effect his removal, may have operated with him in forming a connection with Sindia. I do not believe he is altogether insensible of the danger of any intimate alliance with that ambitious and grasping chief, although from his natural volatility he may not have sufficiently reflected on the extent of it, and I rather believe that he would have preferred engagements for the ends above mentioned with us or

even with Tippoo to one with him ; but the first he concluded, I conceive, too uncertain to be depended on to the extent he might wish and the last, from the circumstance of the guarantee treaty and from Tippoo's faithless character, too dangerous to be engaged in. That he should endeavour to fortify himself against Balajee after the steps that Minister has taken against him and the part he will probably take hereafter with the same hostile views in favor of Ali Jah's pretensions to succeed his father or that he should pay an attention to his own continuance in power in all his public measures is not, I conceive, to be wondered at when we consider how few ministers even in European Courts have been found possessed of minds sufficiently enlarged or disinterested to separate one from the other. It is also equally natural that Balajee should desire to remove from the administration a man whose conduct has been so different from that of Ruccum-ud-Dowlah who after some chaffering with us sold himself to the Mahrattas and by their support reduced his master so low as to assign him a monthly allowance for his support

Should you think any remarks in this letter worthy of his Lordship's attention you are perfectly at liberty to transmit him a copy of it.

**No 183.—Malet goes to Bombay**

**FROM—CHARLES MALET,**

**TO—THE HON'BLE SIR CHARLES OAKLEY, BART, GOVERNOR, FORT ST. GEORGE**

*Poona, 31d May 1793*

H'ble Sir,

Intending to proceed shortly for a few days to Bombay this serves purposely to acquaint you that my Assistant Mr. Uthhoff will be instructed to communicate whatever may be requisite for your information during my absence and to pay every attention to such commands as you may think proper to honor him with

The disputes that have long subsisted between M Sindia and T. Holcar in the north of India seem approaching to a crisis, the decision of which will necessarily have a great influence on the politics of this State.

Pursuram Bhou who has been long attending on the Durbar took his leave of the Peshwa yesterday to return to his Jageer on the southern frontier.

I have the honor to enclose copy of this Court's written answer to the points of complaint urged by Tippoo as forwarded to me in Mr. Secretary Jackson's letter of the 10th Ult.

**No. 184.**—Cornwallis informs Kennaway of the line of policy to be observed towards the two states of Poona and Hyderabad.

FROM—CORNWALLIS,

TO—SIR JOHN KENNAWAY, BART., RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

*Fort William, 4th May 1793*

Sir,

It gave me great satisfaction to find by your letter dated the 18th ultimo, that Azem-ul-Omrah has promised in such positive and explicit terms that he will take no important step with respect to the present discussions in the Marrattah state without consulting my sentiments, and although his late conduct has been a little at variance with the declaration that he made to me on the evening of the day on which I dined with Secunder Jah in Camp, "that his attachment was to the Peishwah and the Government at Poonah" or words nearly similar, yet I trust that he will consider a formal message communicated officially through you as a solemn engagement, from which he cannot recede.

You will assure him that I have no desire to favor either party, and that conformably to the opinions which I expressed in my last letter to you, I do not conceive that I could interfere in the domestic concerns and arrangements of the Mahratta State without violating the friendship which I have professed towards the Peishwa, and without endangering the continuance of an alliance which is calculated to secure the peace of India, and from which the three powers have derived such honourable and essential advantages.

**No. 185.**—Malet reports to G. G. that reconciliation had been effected between Nana and Mahadji. He describes his visit to the Peshwa and the dinner he had at the palace, of which interesting details are narrated.

FROM—Mr. C. W. MALET,

TO—MARQUIS CORNWALLIS, K. G., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, the 8th May 1793.*

On the 6th Instant the Minister and Harry Punt paid a visit to Mhadjee Sindca, as had been settled in Harry Punt's late meetings with Sindca. The subject of this conference, I am told, had a tendency to conciliate the differences of these chieftains, and a meeting between the Peshwa and Seycheev, it is said, is to be the first proof of reconciliation; but its confirmation will require a succession of much more important reciprocal concession.

Having received a representation from General Abercromby of the seizure of a vessel belonging to a Native Merchant of Bombay by the

Subadar of Gheriah, I have presented a memorial to the Durbar demanding restitution

The 7th instant had been fixed on for [my] taking leave of the Durbar, on which day I received a message from the Peshwa, desiring me to defer my journey a day or two [in order] to be present at an entertainment to be given me on account of his late nuptials. On my declining to defer my journey, it was agreed that the entertainment and take-leave visit should be on this day.

Accordingly at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 P M, I, with the gentlemen of my party, waited on the Peshwa, when after a dinner in the style which I have formerly described, complimentary presents were made me, as has been done or is daily doing, to all the principal people here, in return for those on the late marriage. After dinner I presented the Peshwa an air pump, with which he was well amused till the evening.

From the Peshwa's I proceeded to the Minister's, who confirmed the enclosed account of the letters lately received from the Nizam, with this addition, that answers have been given, "That though in all Governments occasional discussions [dissensions?] of a domestic nature may arise, yet as none at present appear in this state of a nature to require His Highness's interposition, he is begged to give himself no further trouble on that point."

The Minister, in reply to my query, assured me that his late visit to Mhadjee Sindia was purely for the sake of friendly explanation which had ended in mutual assurances of sacrificing all past causes of discontent to future harmony.

From further conversation I collected, that this apparent accommodation was not absolutely beyond the reach of interruption, particularly in the event of Azem-ul-Omra's prosecuting an intention that had reached the Minister on report of coming here, since, as it would not be on grounds agreeable to this Court its origin and object required no explanation.

In reply to my query of Mhadjee Sindia's continuance here, he seemed to think there was no prospect of his marching before the rains, and from the tenor of his conversation gave me clearly to understand, that there was a wide field of political difficulty in perspective, but as confiding in your Lordship's friendly disposition to preserve the cordiality of the two states, he had given me a general view of it, so should he in future continue to impart to me such circumstances as might affect the general tranquillity. Much more passed, but my time is too short to trouble your Lordship with a detail.

From the Minister's I proceeded to Mhadjee Sindia's, having previously acquainted him with my intention of waiting on him to receive his commands on my trip to Bombay. He received me with his usual friendship and courtesy, and I embraced the opportunity to introduce

Mr. Uhthoff and to acquaint him that the care of my functions would be intrusted to his management during my absence, as I had previously done to the Peshwa and the Minister

I shall proceed on my journey at 1 a.m. tomorrow morning, and hope to be in Bombay on the 10th or 11th

**No. 186**—Uhthoff writes to Kennaway acknowledging letters to Malet who had gone to Bombay.

FROM—UHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN KENNAWAY, BART, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

*Poona, 13 May 1793.*

Sir,

I have the Honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to Sir Charles Malet under date the 5th instant which was immediately transmitted to him at Bombay

One of the marks of our attention to Nizam Ally Khan's Government, alluded to in Sir Charles Malet's letter to the Governor General of 26th ultimo was, I believe, the permission given to His Highness to purchase some arms from Madras.

**No. 187**—Malet writes to Kennaway mentioning how the two Courts of Poona and Hyderabad felt jealous of each other in regard to marks of attention shown to them by the British power and how the two Residents should conduct themselves cautiously.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN KENNAWAY, BT, RESIDENT, HYDERABAD

*Bombay, 18th May 1793.*

Sir,

I have been duly honored with your letter of the 5th inst. which circumstances prevented my acknowledging by the last post

Having no official papers with me by reference to which I might refresh my memory on the subject treated of in it, I can only observe that the instances of attention shown by us to His Highness' Government must I presume have been the letter and present from His Majesty and the ten guns from the Company, both of which if I recollect right were introduced just at the time of the Nazim's marching and of course well adapted to give eclat to our cordiality on the eve of his making that important movement To these critical marks of attention may be added the permission to purchase musquets and cannon at Madras for Raymond's Corps, nor should the continuance of two of our Battalions in His Hss's service be forgotten.

I am sorry however that you should seem to imply an idea on my part of exception to these marks of attention which if I recollect right I only mentioned as furnishing some ground on which the Poona Government might be led to suppose us concerned in His Highness' Government, particularly as the establishment of such a persuasion, would, I should imagine, be extremely desirable to His Hss's Ministry and be promoted accordingly, and I leave you to judge whether it would have been wise and politic to have encouraged such a persuasion with respect to that particular measure however advisable it may be in the general scale of politics

I trust indeed that our conduct at our respective courts founded on his Lordship the Govr Genl's instructions will have obviated inferences that might otherwise have been drawn from appearances so open to an artful application by one Court and so liable to a mysterious construction by the other

Permit me to assure you that so far from imputing an officious motive to any elucidation you may think proper to favor me with of any matter of opinion advanced by me, it will always be received with the highest respect by your most obdt hble. servt

**No. 188**—This paper sets forth Cornwallis's unwillingness to interfere in the disputes between the Courts of Poona and Hyderabad.

FROM—SIR JOHN KENNAWAY,

TO—MEER ALLUM.

*23rd of May 1793*

The expressions which the Nabob Azem-ul-Omrah made use of when I visited him in Camp at Lalla Corra, the principal of which were that there was no foundation in the report circulated concerning the drift of the march to Bider, that it was merely for a change of air, that he had no other object, that I should communicate the same to Lord Cornwallis and desire him to be perfectly satisfied that if he should have any other object in view he would first consult his Lordship, and that he would take no important step without his advice, I lost no time in reporting to his Lordship who has now written me in answer that he has derived very great confidence from the Nabob's expressions which he trusts the Nabob, considering the message as a firm engagement, will never depart from. In reply to the other topics of conversation which passed at the above visit, his Lordship writes me that he has no desire to favor any of the Mahratta Chiefs in their intestine quarrels, because he conceives he cannot interfere with either party without violating the friendship subsisting between the Company's and the Peishwah's Government, and without greatly endangering the confederacy of the three Sircars which

has already been so highly honorable and advantageous, and tends to secure the future peace and quiet of the Deccan. I have written this for your information.

**No. 189**—Malet writes to the Governor of Madras of his return from Bombay and of the prevalence of scarcity and fevers in Poona.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR, FORT ST GEORGE.

*Poona, 10 June 1793.*

Hon'ble Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint you that I resumed charge of my Ministry at the Court on the 9th Inst, having on that day returned here from Bombay after officiating on the 4th at the investiture of Genl. Robert Abercromby with the Insignia of the most Honorable Order of the Bath agreeable to the commands of Our Gracious Sovereign as signified through the Hon'ble the Court of Directors.

I have nothing more material to advise than that an accommodation has lately taken place between Sindia and Holcar in the north, that the dearth increases here and that the consequent mortality seems to have produced a morbid quality in the air by which this city and its environments have been and continue to be almost unusually afflicted with fevers

**No. 190**—Cornwallis informs the Peshwa and Mahadji Sindia of the French having declared war against England and relies upon Maratha friendship at this crisis.

FROM—CORNWALLIS,

TO—THE PESHWA

*Fort William, 17th June 1793.*

The friendship and intimacy which subsists between us, altho' it gains daily strength by acts of sincerity and good faith and becomes permanent in proportion as we mutually experience the benefits of it, yet it cannot fail of receiving additional force and of becoming more the subject of admiration in the eyes of the world when a conduct is pursued on both sides replete with confidence and a reciprocal communication of occurrences without reserve

Under this impression, and considering you the friend of the English nation, I think it incumbent on the confidence established between us that I should communicate to you any material information of events in which the English are in any respect concerned; and altho' these occurrences may take place in Europe and are not likely to have any great effect on the peace now prevailing in India, yet to have neglected

to notify to you such events would manifest an inattention to our friendship, and would be incompatible with the sincerity and good will that prevails between us

You cannot but have been informed that for some years past a friendship had subsisted between England and France to the prosperity and interests of both nations, but within these few years the lower class of the people of France, instigated by seditious and evil-minded men have set aside all order and regularity in their country, and having driven away the Nabobs and Peers of the Kingdom, they confined their King, and at length put him to death. Thus without any Government to guide the nation within, or any councils to conduct its affairs with neighbouring states on the principles that have prevailed for ages, it can be no wonder that their conduct towards other powers should be equally unwarrantable and outrageous. I have now been informed by advices from Europe that notwithstanding the confusion and anarchy which prevail in France, the people of that country have declared open hostilities against several powerful states in Europe, and altho' their finances have naturally diminished, and their army and navy from a want of due subordination and of resource are in a disabled state, yet they have also commenced war against England in addition to the several other powers with whom they were already in a state of hostility.

The English Nation whose earnest desire was to preserve the system of peace which existed with all the neighbouring states, cannot silently submit to so wanton a breach of it, and have accordingly taken the steps necessary to punish it both in Europe and in India. I have in consequence availed myself of this information by depriving the French of their settlements in Bengal, and trust that my exertions will henceforward prevent them from disturbing the tranquillity which prevails in the other parts of India. Knowing me earnestly desirous to hear of your welfare, I trust that you will make me happy by frequent letters.

To

Mahadji Sindia,  
Nana Purnavese,  
Hurry Punt,

of the same tenor and date

**No. 191**—Cornwallis informs the Peshwa of his move to Madras to capture Pondicherry from the French.

FROM—CORNWALLIS,

TO—THE PESHWA.

*Calcutta, 12th August 1793.*

I did myself the honor to inform you, that Sir John Shore was appointed to take charge of the Government of the Company's possessions



on my departure for Europe, and that in consequence of the season of the year, which was then unfavourable for undertaking the voyage, I had postponed my departure for a few months

The period is now arrived and I am preparing to embark, but in consequence of the hostilities which have taken place in Europe between my nation and the French, of which you will have already heard, I shall go to Madras in my way to England in order to conduct the siege of Pondicherry, a place belonging to the French in the Carnatic. It has been my anxious wish to preserve the peace which prevails generally thro'out India and to establish the reputation of the English Government for good faith and for the desire which my nation possesses to live in friendship with every one. With this view it has been my uniform conduct to adhere rigidly to all my engagements, and at present in order to prevent the French from disturbing the general tranquillity, I have deprived them of their factories in Bengal and shall now exert myself to dispossess them of Pondicherry, the only place of any strength which is left to them in India. Should the English arms be crowned with success in this undertaking I shall embark for England, and until that time Mr Speke, the Senior member of this Government, will take charge of the affairs here, and on my final departure, when I shall resign the Government, Sir John Shore will enter in the duties appertaining to the office of Governor General. He has already assured you of his attachment and wish to preserve the same friendly sentiments in your mind as you have been pleased to show to me and to the Company.

I shall do myself the honor to address you from Madras, until when I hope to be honored with frequent letters

To

Nana Furnaveese,  
Hurry Punt,  
Madajee Scindia,

of the same purport

**No. 192**—Intimation is given to the Peshwa of Mr Speke having taken charge of the Govt. at Calcutta in the absence of Cornwallis who had proceeded to Madras.

FROM—P. SPEKE,  
TO—THE PESHWA.

*Calcutta, 16th August 1793.*

You will have learnt by the letters from Marquis Cornwallis the particulars of his departure to Madras in order for the arrangement of

affairs in that quarter. His Lordship set out from Calcutta on the 13th instant and until he shall embark for England has left the management of the affairs of this Government to the Gentlemen of the Council of which I am the Senior member. I think it necessary to inform you of this circumstance, and hope that considering the connection between you and the Company, you will frequently make me happy by letters containing accounts of your health, and mentioning such affairs as may be necessary for strengthening the intimacy between us

To

Nana Purnavese,  
Scindea,  
Hurry Punt,

of the same tenor and date.

**No. 193**—The Peshwa is informed of the surrender of Pondicherry by the French to the British,

FROM—P. SPEKE,

TO—THE PESHWA.

*Calcutta, 7th September 1793.*

You have been informed both by Marquis Cornwallis and by me of his Lordship's expedition to the southward in order to arrange some necessary affairs in that quarter and conduct the siege of Pondicherry, the only remaining place belonging to the French in the Peninsula. The siege of the place has for some time been carried on under the direction of the Commander of the Forces at Madras and I have now the pleasure to inform you, intelligence has just been received that on the 22nd of last month, the day that his Lordship sailed from Bengal, the Fort of Pondicherry surrendered at discretion in a few hours after the batteries opened upon it.

As your Government is so intimately connected with this that the interests of both are as one, I am confident that by communicating this happy event I shall afford you very sincere satisfaction.

To

Nana Purnavese,  
Scindia and,  
Hurry Punt,

of the same tenor and date.

**No. 194**—Reconciliation between Nana and Mahadji and its terms are reported in the following account of a conversation to the Resident of Hyderabad. A Maratha move against the Nizam is also indicated.

*Substance of a conversation which took place between Meer Allum  
and Mahomed Ikram*

*Hyderabad, 12th October 1793.*

Meer Allum said that by a letter from Kullian Row of the 26th ultimo, and those from Raghotim Row to the Minister under date the 27th and 29th ultimo and 4th October, it appears Sindia has settled all his business at Poonah agreeably to his wishes, and from one of the above letters, that his accounts have been signed by the Peishwah, acknowledging a balance in his (Sindia's) favor of five crores of rupees, that Sindia finding he could not obtain any ready cash from the Poona Ministry has accepted a transfer on the Peishwah's share of the conquests in Hindostan, empowering him to withhold the payment of it and stipulating that no demand is to be made on him by the Poonah Government on account of such share till the whole of the above balance shall have been, by this means, liquidated, that he is to have the sole management of affairs in that quarter, and is to be furnished with such troops either with or without their chiefs, as he may require from the Poona Government to serve under his orders during his future operations; and that on his arrival in Hindostan he is to do as he likes in regard to Himmud Behadur, by which delay, Meer Allum observed, that it appeared Balajee Pandit wished to give the Gusam an opportunity of taking refuge elsewhere. Meer Allum also said that Sindia having no ostensible reason for delaying his return to Hindostan, it was natural to suppose he would shortly set out to that quarter, but that he was not quite sure whether he might not first in concert with Ballajee Pandit give trouble to his Highness, particularly as the Poona Minister had lately sent a paper containing eight requisitions of the Nizam, one of which is for an outstanding balance of part of the Chout of Beder, and as Sindia could have prevented the transmission of this paper, it appeared likely that it must have come with his knowledge and approbation; that Babah Row (whose departure from hence had been delayed some time by Sindia's demanding a sum of money from Azem-ul-Omrah, and a Jageer from the Nizam, and Appa Chitnavese a Jageer for himself; all of which the Minister for the present had refused, remarking with respect to money, that there was a time for all things; and in regard to Jageers, that Balahjee Pandit would be jealous of any cession of country to Sindia and to Appa Chitnavese, that Sindia would be jealous of his servants getting a Jageer without his knowledge) had marched towards Poona for the purpose of bringing about an accommodation through Sindia whose servant he is, and that in short in the course of a month it would be known from Babah Row's letters whether, his Highness, agreeably to his wish, would be able to

return peaceably to Hyderabad, or be involved in disturbances with the Poona Government.

Meer Allum explained some words which passed between Azem-ul-Omrah and Raghojee Bhonslah's Vakeel the 8th instant in presence of Mahommed Ikram who had not then distinctly heard them, he said that the Minister thanked God that more than the sum unjustly taken by the Bhonslah from the Nizam's Talooks had been expended uselessly in raising troops, particularly as the Nizam had no idea of breaking with Raghojee or of promoting disturbances, and that Raghojee's Vakeel replied, it was rather early to reckon the expenditure useless, and that the Minister had better defer his conclusion till he saw the good services the troops might perform.

Meer Allum added that his Highness has directed the Minister to relinquish all idea of building a new town at this place, and to repair Hyderabad and Godcondah which have suffered by the late heavy rains.

**No. 195**—Malet writes to the Resident of Benares that Bhaskarpant Kunte was appointed by Nana to build a house for him at that place.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—JONATHAN DUNCAN, RESIDENT, BENARES

*Poona, 18 October 1793.*

Sir,

I had the honour to write you under the 23rd September at the request of the Minister of the State and have now the pleasure to enclose a letter from him written at my instance to his agent at Benares, Bhaskarpant Coonta, enjoining on no account to interfere in any business but that of building an house for the minister with which he is entrusted and in the conduct thereof to regulate himself in such a manner as to afford no cause of complaint

**No. 196**—Sir John Shore intimates to Malet of his having taken charge of the G. G.'s office at Calcutta.

FROM—SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL,

TO—SIR C. W. MALET, BART., RESIDENT, POONA.

*Fort William, 28 October 1793.*

Sir,

The Marquis Cornwallis having signified his resignation of the offices of Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of the Hon'ble

Company's forces in India, I am directed by the Governor General in Council to acquaint you that Sir John Shore Bart has succeeded to the office of Governor General, and Major General Sir Robert Abercromby K B to that of Commander in Chief from this date.

**No. 197**—Shore informs the Peshwa of his having assumed the G. G.'s office.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—THE PESHWA.

*Fort William, 28th October 1793.*

I have the pleasure to inform you that in consequence of the departure of Marquis Cornwallis for Europe, I this day took charge of the affairs of the Hon'ble Company as Governor General

You have been informed by his Lordship that I was for some years a member of the Council of Bengal during his Lordship's Government, and that I was fully apprised of the friendship subsisting between you and his Lordship I am happy in the present opportunity of renewing the assurances addressed to you by his Lordship and myself, that I shall have the sincerest satisfaction in cultivating and improving that friendship.

From the intimacy which so long subsisted between Marquis Cornwallis and myself, I am well acquainted with his sentiments upon all occasions, and with the very upright and honourable measures by which he maintained the reputation of the English Government

It is my earnest wish to pursue the conduct of his Lordship by a strict attention to the principles of justice and good faith, by the due performance of all subsisting engagements, and by cultivating the friendship and unanimity which subsisted between you and his Lordship.

I hope to be frequently honored with letters mentioning your health.

To

Nana Purnavese,

Hurry Punt and

Madajee Scindia,

Of the same tenor and date.

No. 198—Shore expresses to Malet the great regard he entertained for him

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—SIR C. W MALET, BART.

*Calcutta, 30th October 1793*

Sir,

The official information of my succession to the Government of Bengal has been communicated to you by Mr Secretary Hay, and it is with great pleasure I avail myself of the opportunity which this event affords me, of commencing a correspondence with you

From my own experience as well as the testimony of Marquis Cornwallis, I am happy to acknowledge the very high sense which I entertain of the zeal, ability and success with which you have conducted the many important negotiations committed to your management, and to assure you of the very great satisfaction I feel in the confidence that during my administration the intercourse between the Governments of Poonah and Calcutta will be carried on through your mediation.

In availing myself of a public occasion to address you, I cannot avoid expressing my hopes that it may become the foundation of a private friendship between us

There are many public letters from you to the late Governor General which have not been answered, the last is dated the 2nd of October and I hope in two or three days at farthest to reply to them.

No. 199—Intimation is sent to Malet of the retirement of Kennaway and of the appointment of Captain William Kirkpatrick to succeed him as Resident at Hyderabad

FROM—SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET, BART, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 30 October 1793.*

I am directed to advise you that the ill state of Sir John Kennaway's health having obliged him to request permission to resign the Hon'ble Company's service, and proceed to Europe by one of the early ships of the season, Captain William Kirkpatrick has been appointed by the Governor General in Council to succeed him in the office of Resident at the Court of Nizam Ally Khan.

Captain Kirkpatrick, who will leave Bengal in about 15 days, and proceed by land to Hyderabad, will receive instructions, similar to those which were given to Sir John Kennaway in relation to his correspondence with you as Resident at the Court of the Peshwa.

**No. 200**—Kennaway informs the G. G. of the views he had extracted from the Nizam with reference to Poona and to the Raja of Berar.

FROM—JOHN KENNAWAY,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Bidar, 13 November 1793*

Honorable Sir,

I had the honor to address you the 6th instant advising my arrival at this place. In the evening of the 6th I waited on His Highness the Nizam whom I was concerned to find much emaciated probably owing to his advanced age and the little sustenance he has an appetite for, compared to what he had, but I have the pleasure to understand (though rather doubtful of the fact) that his dropsical swellings have entirely left him, in which case he may yet possibly hold out another year. This however I do not conceive to be the general opinion and a contrary belief may perhaps be one of the reasons that will detain Sindia some time longer in the Dekhan.

After the first compliments and enquiries concerning Lord Cornwallis' departure and your succession had passed, the Minister demanded my opinion whether as a body of ten or twelve thousand of Ragojee Bhonslah's horse under the Command of Etul Pundit were stationed at Rajoora on his Highness's frontier, it would be advisable that a party of five or six thousand should be detached from hence by way of boundary precaution towards the quarter where Etul Pundit was stationed, to watch his motions, to which I replied, that boundary precautions if they did not exceed those that were usually observed were at all times advisable not only with respect to the Rajah of Berar but to the Company or any other neighbouring power; but that five or six thousand horse appeared to me to be too many if no other design was entertained and too few if Etul Pundit's station was contrary to usual practice and any hostile intention on his part was suspected. the Minister replied that such a station being taken by such a body of troops was not customary and therefore suspicious. I answered that further information, I thought, ought to be waited for and that any extraordinary detachment of troops being sent by His Highness would be apt to increase any jealousy or ill blood between him and Ragojee, as the vicinity of two camps of different powers often led to a quarrel between the states they belonged to, which might otherwise have been avoided. The measure, therefore, I added, required hesitation and I requested time to reflect on the question that had been put to me as well as information of the drafts intended by the step proposed before I gave a more decisive opinion, on which His Highness observed that no hesitation concerning it was necessary. Nothing further passed on the subject at this time and I soon afterwards took my leave.

On the 8th Meer Allum came to me for my more decided sentiments when, understanding from him that the Minister had no just cause for apprehensions of any offensive measures from Etul Pundit's party, I gave it as my unqualified opinion that any force being sent towards it would be extremely improper, that His Highness and the Minister had given the first provocation by the threats that had been made use of and the object which was insinuated to be the end of His Highness's march from Hyderabad when the negotiation alluded to in the 4th paragraph of my letter to the Governor-General of the 16th June was going on, and that they might with reason consider those threats and insinuations as the sole occasion of the movement of the Berar troops which they now affected to be alarmed at

Meer Allum informed me that my opinion coincided with that which he had given to the Minister on the subject in addition to which he said he had stated to him that Sindia in like manner as he had upbraided him (the Minister) with the prejudice which His Highness's march to Bider (a march undertaken for his (Sindia's) gratification) had been of to their secret plans, although Baba Row his Vakeel acknowledged the great service which his Master had derived from this movement in settling his terms with the Poonah Durbar, might urge any force being now detached against Etul Pandit as a reason for flying off from his promises, and being unable to perform the part he had undertaken of adjusting the matters in discussion between the Nizam and the Rajah of Berar to His Highness's satisfaction.

On my indicating a curiosity to be informed what were the grounds on which Sindia and the Minister now stood with respect to each other, Meer Allum related to me some parts of a conversation which he lately had with the latter on this subject. Sindia, he said, had lately forwarded eight articles or requisitions of the Poonah Durbar on this Government without either privately or publicly suggesting as the Minister had a right to expect he would have done, in what manner they were to be answered or in other words evaded, what they were he did not say, and on his taking occasion to observe to the Minister that a long time had elapsed and much had been done by him (the Minister) in Sindia's behalf without any of the expected advantages having accrued in return, the Minister had exclaimed, "advantages indeed, it will be extremely well if we can keep our own," which he mentioned, he said, to shew that although the Minister still persevered in his intrigues with this Chief against Balajee Pundit, he was not blind to the futility of it or the danger and loss with which the connection may be attended

Having questioned him with respect to the probable period of Sindia's return to Hindostan, he said, it appeared to him extremely doubtful; that considering the decided influence he had acquired at Poonah he would be loath to depart, while by remaining the concessions which he had



obtained regarding the conquests in Hindostan and his command there would be left in a great measure unimproved and neglected

On the 10th instant Meer Allum acquainted my Moonshy he had reported the answer stated in the 3rd paragraph to the Minister, and I have since learnt that the preparations that were making to collect a body of troops for the purpose proposed have considerably slackened.

**No. 201**—Kennaway informs Malet of his intention of resigning his service at Hyderabad and proceeding to England.

FROM—JOHN KENNAWAY,

TO—CHARLES W. MALET, RESIDENT AT POONAH.

*Bidar, 30 November 1793.*

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd and to enclose for your information copies of my letters to the Governor General of the 26th and to Mr Secretary Jackson of the 28th instant

I am making every enquiry, in consequence of what is mentioned in your letter to the Governor General concerning Baba Raw and will in due time inform you of the result

Having solicited permission to resign the service and proceed to Europe by the ships of this season on account of ill health, the Governor General has been pleased to comply with my request, I expect to depart from hence for Madras the end of next month and imagine my successor, Captain Kirkpatrick, will be here about the middle of January

**No. 202**—The G. G. conveys his views to Malet on the treaty of guarantee, discussing point by point the draft submitted by the Peshwa's Court. The treaty was not effected and was allowed to remain dormant

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POO

*Fort William*

I have perused with great attention the draft of :  
of the 10th and 13th articles of the treaties of Poona  
by the Poona Minister, and enclosed in your add<sup>l</sup>  
of the 22nd September.

In discussing the articles of this draft it is necessary to have the object of the proposed treaty constantly in view, and upon this principle I adopt the following propositions —

That nothing be admitted in it, that is not strictly explanatory of the article that forms the basis of the treaty

Secondly, that none of the articles inserted in the treaties of Pangul and Poona be repeated in it

Thirdly, that nothing be admitted in it contrary to the term, or spirit of the treaty of Seringapatam

I shall now proceed to give my remarks on each article

The omission of a reference to the treaty of Seringapatam in the preamble is decidedly objectionable, and supposing the omission rectified I see no reason for a preference to the Mahratta draft

The first article substitutes the word quarrel, instead of the terms used in the former treaty *molest* or *attack* which should not be departed from. The second and third articles sufficiently correspond with the original draft proposed by Lord Cornwallis.

The terms of the 5th article of the original are more definite than the expressions proposed in substitution of them by the Marattas, which occasion an ambiguity in the conclusion of the 4th article.

The terms of the 6th article in the original draft (corresponding with the 5th of the Mahrattas) give a latitude in the purchase of grain, which I do not suppose to be the meaning of Lord Cornwallis. His Lordship did not, I apprehend, intend that the contracting parties should, at all times have the liberty of purchasing grain in each other's dominions duty free; but this is a fair inference from the terms of the article and if it were so understood by the Mahrattas, it is probable that they would avail themselves of it

On the other hand the practice of raising recruits of men in the Mahratta territories, which is omitted by the Mahrattas is I understand of importance to us

The fifth article of the Mahratta draft confines the stipulations in it to the object of the prosecution of the war, and is in this respect conformable to the fundamental propositions which I have laid down, and I  
[pages missing] \* \* \* \*

of the Hyderabad Minister to the Draft proposed by Lord Cornwallis, and the declaration of the Poona Government of the 3rd July last I see no cogent reason for the conclusion of a new explanatory treaty. No doubts, after what has passed, can possibly be entertained as to the meaning of the article, which the new treaty proposes to explain, nor as to the

conduct to be pursued by the allies, in the event of an infraction of the treaty of peace by Tippoo

I am therefore of opinion that the conclusion of the treaty should not be further pressed, but that it should be altogether suffered to be dormant, unless the Mahrattas should themselves bring it forward to discussion, and as a general answer to the Mahrattas it may be advisable in the present stage of the business to inform them that, as they do not seem inclined to adopt the treaty proposed by Lord Cornwallis, their declaration of the 9th of July is perfectly satisfactory to us, without the formality of a new engagement, but if the business should again be brought forward, my meaning, in that event, is that the draft of the treaty, proposed by Lord Cornwallis, should be adopted with the proposed alteration of the 6th article only, and this alteration may be mentioned as suggested by their draft. The objections to further alterations may be urged either from the three fundamental propositions, or on the grounds of the unimportance of the alterations themselves, and I would avoid, as far as possible entering into the discussion of each particular article, not only as an unnecessary loss of time but as objectionable from the nature of the remarks to which the Mahratta articles are liable.

**No. 203**—Malet mentions the retirement of Dr Findlay from Poona and the appointment of Dr. Crusoe, who served Captain Little in the campaign against Tipu

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE HONOURABLE GEORGE DICK, GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL,  
BOMBAY

*Poona, 16 December 1793.*

Hon'ble Sir,

Mr Thomas Crusoe having requested me to intimate to you his wish of being permitted to resume from the next month his station of Surgeon with me, which he was permitted by your predecessor to quit pretempore to serve with the B'bay detachment uniting with the Mahrattas in the last war, I have the pleasure to transmit his application and to request that it may be honored with your acquiescence.

As by this means Mr. Surgeon Findlay will be at liberty to return to your presidency, it would be injustice to him to omit the opportunity of assuring you that my experience of his humane attention and professional ability entitle him to my warmest recommendation to your favourable notice in his line of service.

*P. S*—I am informed that Pursaram Bhow has commenced his activities against the Raja of Colapore.

No. 204—Here are reproduced only a few selected passages of a long letter addressed by Malet to Sir John Kennaway refuting the latter's arguments in favour of a British guarantee for the Nizam against Maratha aggression

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN KENNAWAY, RESIDENT, HYDERABAD

*Poona, 5th January 1794*

Sir,

I have been duly honoured with your letters of the 26th and 28th ulto.

Controversy as leading to a clear exposition of doubtful points is certainly in many cases eligible and beneficial, particularly in the elucidation of political questions, that involving the interests of nations and the peace and welfare of mankind, cannot be too carefully canvassed or too minutely scrutinised for the purpose of laying open the good and evil that may in all human probability be consequent on them, and this principle will collect new force from the contemplation of the blessings and affections that abstracted from the mutability of human affairs have in all ages been attendant on wise councils or incident to rash and ill-advised measures

Impressed with these ideas and well convinced of the peculiar necessity of carrying them into practice in the circumstances under which the British Empire in the east is constituted, calling for our incessant vigilance and most watchful observance of the dangerous spirit of our neighbours regulated by no principle of equity, I shrink not from the disagreeable task of entering again the lists of political controversy with you, tho' I confess under some apprehension of irksomeness to our superiors from the inutility of combating some obvious inaccuracies in your letters of 26 and 28 ulto and of resuming some obsolete points relative to general defensive arrangements and particular ones with the Nizam, that were amply and, as I had hoped, conclusively agitated in the course of our whole correspondence but more especially in the negotiation of our respective treaties of alliance in 1790

On the general subject of Choute, Kundernee, Peshcush, or any other denomination by which tribute may be designed, I beg leave to assure you that the imposition or exaction of it cannot possibly be more repugnant to any man's ideas than to mine, but I humbly presume that we are not, in the establishment of our sentiments as the criterion by which states are to be regulated, to follow the examples of their tyranny, nor can it be necessary for me to observe to you that there may be as great a stretch of despotism in the annihilation as in the establishment of an arbitrary power and I leave you to judge whether it is consistent with the present principles and system of our Govt. to expose ourselves to the

consequences of such a political knight-errantry. If so we shall not only have to exonerate the Nazim from the burthen of Kundnee, Mukassa, Ser-Deysmooke, Saotra, Babut and other impositions blended with the very soil of a large part of his dominions, but we shall have to redress the wrongs and alleviate the oppressions of almost every prince and chieftain in India from the unfortunate shadow of the royal House of Sewa, confined in Sattaira on the banks of the Kristna to the still more miserable descendant of the Imperial Family of Temur, languishing out the remainder of a wretched existence in imprisonment, in hunger and in blindness, on the banks of the Jumna. If such are to be our objects let them be signified but if they are not, my language and sentiments are constitutional.

Paragraphs 9th-10th contain a great variety of very interesting and very curious political matter. Agreeing with you as I do in the general principle of weakness incident to the aristocracy of which this extraordinary Empire is composed, you may, Sir, have collected from my correspondence that my perception of the advantages to be derived from it (in pointing out which as occasion presented I have not been backward to the best of my ability) has never for a moment lulled me into the smallest neglect of the dangers to be apprehended from its accumulated force under its acknowledged head, the Peshwa, of whom your whole language seems regulated to inculcate a slight opinion. Nor do I conceive that the wisdom and vigilance with which our Govt has always cultivated a good understanding with the great Marratta members of the empire in avoidance of those dangers, leave any room for your introduction of the Nazim as an example to us in that pursuit. For how indeed is it possible that we whose power will, I hope, long support us in the prosecution of an open vigorous policy founded on an interchange of good and honourable offices, should submit to the practice of those wiles and intrigues by which at once the Nazim acknowledges and endeavours to evade the pressure of the Peshwa's power, for while it is disavowed as you observe at his Court, and while His Hss.'s Ministry are employed in evading compliance with the demands of the Peshwa, their superior, they are supporting themselves in their temporizing policy by the most servile and expensive submissions to Mahadji Sindia an inferior, thereby multiplying His Hss.'s shackles and for the temporary gratification of perhaps the personal disinclination of His Hss.'s Minister to comply with a demand advanced by the Peshwa's Ministers, the liquidation of which was advised by Ld. Cornwallis involving his Master's family and Government in multiplied thralldom and embarrassment. In the style of derogatory equality in which you mention the Poona Government as a part only, instead of the Head of the Marratta Empire, a fact which ought to be well known at least to you, I think I can trace your adoption of the language of your Court which in the true Mahomedan style affects to speak of every other

power with contempt and degradation, and, as you seem to me to have carried the adoption of this language to the exceptionable length of endangering a propagation of an erroneous idea, nay to the establishment of a dangerous contempt of a power, with whose rivalry it will be our greatest happiness never to be honoured, permit me, to place your language, in a proper point of view to draw your attention to the predicament of this Government, infinitely more probable than a similar supposition that you may assume for your Court, falling under the administration of a vigorous head in the person of the present Peshwa or of an ambitious Minister in the person of Mahadji Sindia (think not these suppositions beyond the bounds of probability), what, Sir, permit me to ask you, would be your opinion of the rivalry of this state, a state which by the singular union of its ecclesiastical and military character is possessed of hands to execute what its artful and industrious Brahmin emissaries are constantly machinating in every province of Hindostan and whose intelligence extends to the minutest traits of personal character of the individuals and the governments against which its views are directed, views I am sorry to add bounded only by the genius of the administration or the power of its opponent? Neither the Nizam, Sir, nor his Minister are ignorant of these grounds of apprehension whatever language they may affect to hold, nor can I under my conviction of their feeling it, acquit them now of being engaged in the same object which was openly pursued during the negotiation of the treaties of 1790, of involving us in the extending of our defensive engagements to a virtual protection of His Hss's Government against the dangerous power of this State.

As to your idea of the prevalence of His Hss's influence in this Court I scarce know whether most to lament that the reverse is the case or that you from whom the world is to expect light on the subject should have so widely misunderstood it. As to the Minr.'s late references you cannot surely have forgotten that they have been mere pretences for procrastination, and as to your other ground of conjecture it is indecisive except in the new proof contained in it of A. O.'s perfidy to this state and duplicity to us.

Anxious to avoid all danger of perpetrating a disagreeable train of controversy with your present temporary or future permanent successor, I trust, Sir, you will excuse my so far deviating from your injunctions as to address this (I hope) my last letter on the subjects contained in it to you in preference to Mr. Steuart, to which I am further induced by the persuasion of its being in time to convey to you my hearty wishes for your health and success and to assure you that I have the honour etc.

**No. 205**—Malet explains to the G. C. the origin of a quarrel between the state of Kolhapur and the Patwardhans.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE BART.

*Poona, 6th January 1794*

Honourable Sir,

Some difference having arisen between this Court and the Raja of Colapore a near branch of the Sattarra family, Pursaram Bhou was ordered to bring him to reason, who detached his elder son for that purpose who having in the course of executing his commission taken a small place of the Raja's by assault, was himself attacked by a superior body of the enemy's cavalry while at a distance he was securely observing with a small body of horse the main body of his troops pillaging the place

The success of this sudden and unexpected attack was decisive, P. Bhou's son was wounded and taken prisoner with five or six other people of consequence, a considerable number was slain and four guns and three elephants are said to have fallen into the hands of the victors

This is the same Raja of whose faithless and predatory conduct toward our merchant vessels on the Mallabar Coast, the Bombay Government has had such frequent cause of complaint, the punishment of which, tho' late, our national honour seems to require, and should be adverted to as soon as the state of our naval force may render it feasible

P. Bhou's misfortune has made a very lively impression on this Court and a strong disposition is manifested to take ample satisfaction in which it will become an object to employ part of Mahadji Sindia's force.

The Durbar is likewise involved in a fracas with the Angria family and has detached Madarou, one of Hurry Punt's sons at the head of a force to assert the claims of the Peshwa in the disputed settlement of that chiefship on the recent death of the late head of it

**No. 206**—Malet forwards a general sketch of the political affairs of India to the Court of Directors. Besides other important topics, it enumerates the fighting forces entertained by Mahadji Sindia.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—THE HONOURABLE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS,  
LONDON,

*Poona, 5th February 1794*

Honourable Sir,

It having been noticed to me by the Government of Bombay that a vessel is on the eve of dispatch for Suez, I embrace the opportunity

to endeavour to give you such a general sketch of the present state of affairs at this Court and of Hindostan in general as may probably be satisfactory to you and the Honourable Court

Though the Peshwa is now arrived at years of maturity yet from habits of respect for the Minister Nanna Furnaveese founded on the most essential services to his person and the state, there do not appear any signs of withdrawing from him any part of that authority which he so ably exercised throughout the minority, but which exercise has been rendered much more difficult and delicate by the presence of Mahadji Sindia, whose former merits in the foundation of his (Nanna's) authority and whose present great weight and actual power in the state, entitle him to the Minister's utmost personal and official respect, motives which with the moderate and temporizing manners of these people in general and the Patil in particular, have hitherto prevented any open acts of disagreement, tho' doubtless many concealed seeds must exist that may perhaps, notwithstanding the extreme tact and caution of the parties, ultimately produce some fracas

The Durbar's principal object at present seems to be the enforcement of its claims on the Court of Hyderabad in which however, it experiences, I apprehend, some counteraction from the personal views of M Sindia who seems inclined to convert the demands of the state into the gratification of his own rapacity which, allowing it may afford the Nizam a momentary respite in the liquidation of the whole claims of the Peshwa, will, I apprehend, increase the future dependance of his State by the addition of a new claimant.

Of more essential benefit to His Highness's affairs (without any of the evils of M S's rapacity) do I conceive will be that appearance of cordiality which has now so long subsisted with us, and I sincerely hope that under these circumstances of leisure from immediate danger his Ministry will find means to place his Govt on a footing of effective strength and respectability His Highness's nephew Dara Jah died on the 14th ulto by which one of the supposed competitors for the succession is removed.

The articles of defensive arrangement proposed by me to this Court and by Sir John Kennaway to the Nizam, were assented to by the latter but having been objected to by this Court are again under reference to the Governor-General in Council.

I am happy, however, to acquaint you that every part of the treaty of Seringputtun relative to this Court has been completed by the payment of the last assignment, the passing of receipts for which was officially noticed to me on the 17th ultimo, and I trust that the conciliatory line proposed by the Honourable the Governor-General for the settlement of all points of difference between the Nizam and Tippu, is best described in the enclosed copies of his letters to Tippu Sultan and Sir John Kennaway



received here the 22nd ulto and will be attended with every good effect due to the spirit in which they are dictated

This Court having taken advantage of some embarrassing circumstances in the affairs of the Guykwar family to attempt some usurpations on the territory of that family incompatible with the 8th article of the treaty of Salbyhe and with your interests, I am happy to acquaint you, Honourable Sir, that a formal retraction was amicably effected by my interposition which having been introduced in the most delicate manner has been productive of an effect equally honourable to the good faith of this Court, as descriptive of its knowledge of and respect for our undeviating observance of treaties. The amicable issue of so delicate an affair has been honoured with the approbation of the Honourable the Governor-General, and Govinou Guykwar proceeded from hence to take possession of the family principality on the 19th December so that I trust he has ere this reached his capital Broda

Exclusive of the grand object of this Court's political attention in the negotiations with the Nazim in which the interests of the Bhosla family of Nagpore are also involved, it is engaged in prosecuting its tributary collections in Bundelcund by an army under Ally Bhadur, whose brilliant successes in that quarter have been viewed with a jealous eye by M. Sindia who, I have reason to think, is using all his influence here to procure his (Ally Bhadur's) recall, and will probably enforce it by the movements of a considerable force that he had ordered into that quarter under Gopal Bhou who by my last accounts had reached Dattea

The Durbar has another party employed against the Raja of Colapore (the same whose piratical depredations on the Mallabar Coast have so frequently given us cause of complaint) under the command of Pursaiam Bhou, whose elder son was lately surprised, wounded and made prisoner by a party of the Raja's horse, but shortly returned to his father with every mark of distinction notwithstanding which I understand P Bhou has not ceased hostilities

The third and last military equipment in which this State is at present engaged by its own immediate officers is against the Angria family, Lords of Colabba in the neighbourhood of Bombay, the head of which having lately died and left a disputed succession, the Durbar is now employed in settling it on its own terms You will learn from the Government of Bombay Angria's application for its good offices and reply.

Besides these military equipments under the immediate conduct of the Peshwa's officers, M. Sindia who is attended here by about 8,000 horse, foot and artillery, has an army commanded by Jiajee Bucshy employed in taking every possible advantage of the disputed succession to the Rajaship of Marwar vacated by the death of the late Raja Bidjee Sing, an army employed under Ambajee in settling the country of Meywar in M. Sindia's character of Divan, which office was lately conferred

on him by the Ranna of Oudepoie, an army under Gopal Bhou lately employed against Holcar but now ordered toward Bundelcund for the purpose of collecting the tributes of the Rajas of that quarter and for embarrassing (it is conjectured) Ally Bhadur's measures, a force under Behro (Balo) Punt Tattea in the quarter of Panniput; another under Bappo Malhai in the quarter of Seharunpoie, another in the quarter of Hurieana under Appa Cundoo, beside which Mr Deboigne is employed with part of one of his two Brigades in settling his Jaghire of 35 lacs per an (year), situated partly in Meywat and partly in the Doab Mr Deboigne's whole party I am informed consists of 2 regular Brigades constructed on the plan of ours in Bengal but with a larger proportion of cavalry and artillery To these two I understand a third has been lately added on local principles called Sebyndy meant for the service and defence of his Jaghire

The House of Holcar having been reluctantly forced to succumb to this mighty force of its rival Sindia, Tukojee is now said to be endeavouring to collect his scattered and brow-beaten followers and (at the instigation of this Durbar to divert him from the renewal of a fruitless pursuit of his pretensions at least equal to those of Sindia in the north), to be preparing for a muluckgheery or collecting expedition in the n w. of Guzerat which if carried into execution will expose him to a serious difference with the power of the Guykwar family.

The only remaining powers of Hindostan of any note viz. the Vizeer, Tippu Sultan and the Raja of Jeynagur (for I mention not the miserable shadow of the House of Temui consigned to blindness, hunger and disgrace in the palace of Dehly), affording no present subject of conversation must be concluded to be fully occupied in their domestic affairs While the Sics are as usual busied in the feuds that are constantly agitating their numerous principalities and in prosecuting their predatory claims on all their southern neighbours previous to their inroads The more northern Sic chiefs are held in suspense as to the direction that will be given to the power of the monarchy of Abdallee by Zuman Sha, the son of Timui, who having defeated, seized and imprisoned his brother Humaioon, has ascended the throne of Cabul, the first indications of whose genius are expected with anxiety not only by his near neighbours the Sics and the inhabitants of the countries on both banks of the Indus from the sea to Cabul, but even by this State whose wide extended conquests under M. Sindia have approximated its domain to the well-known danger of a northern invasion.

Sir John Kennaway your late Resident at Hyderabad having been induced to resign by the bad state of his health in the hope of re-establishing it by a voyage to Europe this season, I have the pleasure to acquaint you that his successor Captain Kirkpatrick arrived at Hyderabad on the 26th ulto. on his way to Bedar where the Nazim now holds his Court.

My late correspondence with Mr. Steuart (left in charge of the Residency by Sir John Kennaway) gives me no reason to think that the Nazim's health has declined much of late. The general tranquillity is undoubtedly so closely connected with his life as to interest us much in its duration.

M. Sindia has been troubled for some days with a feverish complaint which has recurred frequently within the last six months and will probably hasten his departure from hence.

I have pleasure in acquainting you that official intimation has been conveyed by me to this Court of the magnificent token of the Hon'ble Company's friendship that may be soon expected in the intended present of Ragobah's jewels to the Peshwa, the language of whose Ministers continues to convey to me the same friendly sentiments that I have had the happiness of transmitting to my superiors throughout the period of my ministry.

## SECTION 5

### *Mahadji's Death and its Consequences.*

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No. 207.—Malet announces the death of Mahadji Sindia to the G. G.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JN. SHORE.

*Poona, 12 February 1794.*

Honourable Sir,

I am much concerned to add to the account of M. Sindea's indisposition conveyed in my last despatch of the 7th instant that he departed this life at eight o'clock this evening. I lose not a moment in dispatching intelligence of an event that necessarily involves such very serious and extensive consequences to the political interests of this State in particular and of India in general.

I have transmitted intelligence of this important event to the Resident at Hyderabad and to the Governors of Madras and Bombay, enclosing to the latter copy of this address for the Chairman of the Court of Directors to proceed by the way of Suez if the vessel intended for that port should not have sailed.

Doulat Rou, Sindea's adopted son, who is about 14 years of age, has been some days absent at Tuljapore with one of Sindea's wives, but a summons having been sent for him some days sooner and Dauk bearers laid, he is hourly expected here.

**No. 208.**—Capt. Hiern, commanding Malet's guard at Poona, resigns his post and Lieut Ward takes his place.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—CAPT R. A. HIERN, COMMANDING THE RESIDENT'S GUARD AT POONA.

*Poona, 12 February 1794*

Sir,

Having been favoured with your letter of the 1st Inst signifying your intention of proceeding to Europe this season and looking on the same as a resignation of your situation, I lost no time in communicating it to the Gov. in C of Bombay, who having signified his assent thereto and appointment of Lieut Ward as your successor, this serves to convey to you my permission to proceed to Bombay at your convenience delivering over charge of the detachment, etc, to Lt. Ward. I enclose your passport and wishing you success, I remain.

**No. 209.**—Malet reports his views on the probable consequences of Mahadji's death

FROM—C W. MALET,

TO—SIR JN. SHORE.

*Poona, 14 February 1794*

Honourable Sir,

Since my last address of the 12th advising the death of M. Sindia nothing extraordinary has occurred. The Ministry and chieftains of the deceased seem, from what has hitherto passed, unanimous in their disposition to receive Doulut Rou as successor to their late master, and in the prosecution of it letters in his name have been despatched to the officers of provinces, forts, districts, and those commanding armies, enjoining the uninterrupted pursuit of the objects in which they had been employed, and giving them every assurance of the same support and protection from Doulut Rou that they enjoyed under their late master.

An Arzee has likewise been despatched to the King and letter to Shanizan -al-Deen in Doulut Rou's name soliciting a confirmation in his person of the titles and honors enjoyed by his late adoptive father.

It seems fortunate for Doulut Rou that the fidelity and attachment of the ministers and chiefs to their late much loved Master, should thus by their adherence to his adopted heir, have obviated the possible evils that might have arisen from his absence at so very critical a period. In fact I believe few masters or princes have better deserved the affection and attachment of their subjects and servants than this extraordinary man under whose arbitrary authority all ranks of his followers seem to have enjoyed the utmost latitude of the most liberal indulgence.

Tho' the same amiable traits of personal character must undoubtedly have impressed the Peshwa and the Ministers of this Court with sentiments of individual concern and regret on the loss of so great and so eminent a servant of the state, yet I query whether on considerations of political convenience they will be much grieved by the removal of a member of the empire whose power, claims, and pretensions must have been in some degree irksome and obnoxious, all which objectionable circumstances will now be succeeded by the much more desirable ones of becoming as arbiters of the hopes and fortunes of his successor, directors of the force of the family of Sindia and receivers of the ample benefits invariably arising from the exercise of the lucrative branch of investiture annexed to the Peshwa's supremacy, the advantages of which will be entirely at the command of this Court by the fortunate circumstance of the Patil's having ended his career here and thereby placed his successor (whose rights are not so indisputable as to relieve him entirely from the arts by which this Court, should it find occasion, may embarrass them) completely within the influence of the power paramount.

Under these circumstances it is impossible to surmise with any degree of precision the consequences that may be produced by the death of this extraordinary man on the general system or on the present extent of this Empire. For while we may reasonably conclude that the great instrument employed by M. S. in the command of distant armies and in the Govt. of foreign provinces, will lose part of their energy and vigor by the source of all their movements falling under a new and perhaps discordant influence, it is but fair to presume that new life will be given to the views and designs of Tukoji Holcar and Ally Bhadur, the operations of the former having been completely stopped and of the latter long checked by the ascendancy of the deceased chieftain.

Nor can we suppose but that the northern Rajas and chieftains nay the blind King himself who have so long felt and yielded to the personal genius of M. Sindia, will on its removal feel and perhaps struggle to gratify the natural impulse of emancipation, in the pursuit of which recourse will be industriously had to arms and intrigues, and as Sha Alum has the credit of being a considerable adept in the latter, it is not improbable but he may \* \* \* by their influence on Mr Deboigne and Semioo's widow, the force of whose brigades might if collected and critically directed at this eventful period, be productive of the most important consequences.

At all events, hon'ble Sir, I humbly presume that reducing the ferment of re-arranging the political decomposition occasioned by this great chief's death, will for some time give full employment to all the energies of the ministry of this State, a situation favorable to the repetition of our instances to this Court should it be deemed expedient, on the subject of those defensive arrangements proposed by the late Govr. Genl. and in concert with the Nazim particularly as there is good reason to think that

the vigor of the opposition to those arrangements was principally derived from M. S., by whose death (notwithstanding the respite which through his means (however costly) the Nazim may have flattered himself with obtaining from compliance with the Peshwa's claims), I am strongly of opinion His Highness is relieved from the author and executor of the most dangerous designs against the independence of his state and the power of his family.

As there is room to apprehend that the tranquillity of the northern parts of Hindostan may be exposed to temporary interruption in the present state of things, I have thought it necessary to submit it to your notice in the dispatch of the jewels.

Since the B'bay Board's intimation of having rejected the application of Angria for its interposition in settling his differences with this Court, his former application to me has been most earnestly repeated with offer, of submitting to any forms or coming here in person if prescribed through my mediation. I have, however, declined in as civil terms as possible all interference. Hostilities are still carrying on by the State against that family, the Raja of Colapore, Doanjee Waug and the Dessaye of Kittoor.

Should the Company have any demands on the town and district of Broach ceded to M. Sindia on the conclusion of the treaty of Salbyhe, permit me to suggest the present as a favourable opportunity for advancing or repealing them.

P.S.—Doulut Rou Sindia is not yet arrived here though anxiously expected.

**No. 210.**—Shore communicates his view to Malet on the proposed guarantee engagement with the Nizam and the Peshwa; the General policy should be, he says, to disunite the interests of the Maratha feudatories.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET,

*Fort William, 17 February 1794*

Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your several letters and to reply to such parts of them as require attention.

The transfer of the collection of the sums levied by the Choutteea on the part of Guikwar to the Nabob of Surat, in consideration of his undertaking to be responsible for the amount, is certainly a desirable arrangement, equally advantageous to Govindrao and to the Company, as he would receive, without expense, whatever he is entitled to, and the Nabob and Agents of the Company would be relieved from the restraint imposed upon them by the presence and authority of the Choutteea. The object

of the arrangement might be obtained, and perhaps with more facility, by allowing the Nabob to recommend the person acting for the Guikwar as Chouteea who would in that case be sufficiently under his control

It does not occur to me that the Peshwa can make any reasonable objection to the arrangement, or that he has any right to expect that his inclinations should be consulted. You have my authority, therefore, to undertake the adjustment of it with Govindrao if you should now deem it practicable, unless, after duly weighing the above suggestions you should consider the Peshwa's consent or a communication with him necessary, in which case you will previously advise me of your sentiments

Admitting, with you, the general policy of disuniting the interests of the great feudatories of the Mahratta State, I should think the object, under the very great difficulties attending a successful pursuance of it, ill obtained, in any degree which we could hope to accomplish, at the risk of exciting the distrust or enmity of the Poona administration. In our future transactions with the Guikwar, which cannot I conceive be frequent or important, I should cautiously avoid any professions or conduct that might lead him to entertain hopes of our interference in his favour in the event of any disagreement with the Peshwa and still less to encourage disaffection on his part. The right and propriety of our interference, if the question should again occur, must be determined by the obligations of the treaty of Salbye and the circumstances of the case

These reflections have no particular reference, and I state them merely to communicate to you my sentiments and with every inclination to reconsider them, if your observations should render it necessary.

I approve of the presents and visit which you made to Govindrao, previous to his departure, as well as of your proposed entertainment to him

I shall attend to your intimation, if any application should be made by Meha Rajah Sindiah for exemptions in favour of the Peshwa's grandmother.

I have perused with great attention the several references in the correspondence between you and the Resident at Hyderabad on the subject of the Guarantee Treaty, but they do not appear to me to contain any suggestion to induce a deviation from the principles or instructions in my letter to you of the 9th of December on this subject.

Very strong arguments, in my opinion, oppose the concluding a separate engagement with his Highness the Nizam. The object of the proposed stipulations is merely explanatory, and the terms of them ought, of course, to be settled with the consent and concurrence of those who were parties to the original treaty. It may be doubted whether the concurrence of the



Nizam and the company would have the effect, suggested by Sir John Kennaway, of inducing the Peshwa to accede to the articles proposed by Marquis Cornwallis. He has already expressed his dissent from them, and the jealousy of the Mahrattas has taken alarm at the intimation of a separate agreement with the Nizam. It seems equally imprudent and impolitic, to augment it by a determination which would probably be imputed to motives and intentions that have no foundation.

The advantage of a separate treaty with the Nizam on the principles of a defensive engagement without the concurrence and participation of the Peshwa, would be little in comparison with the embarrassments in which we should be involved by it. The independence of the Nizam on every principle of policy is of importance to the interests of the Company, but if the obligation of supporting his independence were thrown upon the Company alone, considering the actual weakness of his Highness's Government and power, they would find it an arduous task to maintain.

If any reliance is to be placed on the motives assigned to the Peshwa for refusing his acquiescence to the articles proposed by Marquis Cornwallis and on the arguments attributed to Sindia, they ought naturally to suggest to us a desire for a more specific definition of the defensive stipulations in the treaties of Poona and Paangul, and this definition is contained in the proposed articles, but as I am convinced that they will be resisted in proportion as we appear anxious for forming them into an engagement, I am therefore disposed to abide by the opinion expressed in my letter of the 9th of December that the negotiation for the conclusion of the explanatory guarantee engagement should be dormant, until the Peshwa should himself think proper to renew it, and that the negotiation should only be renewed on the articles proposed by Marquis Cornwallis, with the alteration suggested in the 6th article.

The concurrence of his Highness, the Nizam, in the draft alluded to, as long as he maintains his present opinion, may be opposed as a sufficient argument to any proposed alteration by the Peshwa, and the principle stated in my letter of the 9th December should be invariably attended to, if the Peshwa should bring forward a new draft.

I do not perceive any advantage to be derived from an appeal to the 10th article of the treaty of Salbye, as a ground for deferring the discussion of the guarantee engagements; on the contrary, the reference appears to me objectionable in two points of views, as extending the limits of discussion, and, more particularly, because the article specified speaks of Tippoo Sultaun as an ally of the Peshwa, and the obligation imposed upon the latter by the terms of it arises from the alliance of the two powers.

The stipulations in the treaty of Poona and Paangul, if the allies are disposed to act with good faith towards each other (particularly since the

discussions which these stipulations have undergone, and the declarations made in the course of them) afford a sufficient guarantee to the contracting parties against any attempts of Tippoo Sultaun, but, if any of the parties are insincere, it is of little consequence what engagements they contract. If the Poona Ministers should therefore again renew the negotiations, I desire it may either be resumed on the grounds of the articles proposed by Lord Cornwallis, which should never be departed from whilst the Nizam concurs in them, but, if new propositions should be urged in such a manner as to render the consideration of them indispensable, that they be discussed by the principles and remarks in my letter of the 9th of December

I shall duly attend to the communications in your letter referred to in the margin respecting the dispatching of Ragoba's jewels

**No. 211.**—Malet requests instructions from the G. G. about the attitude he was to observe towards Daulatrao Sindhia.

FROM—C W. MALET,

TO—SR JN. SHORE

*Poona, 17th February 1794*

My last address was dated the 14th instant.

I have now the pleasure to acquaint you with the arrival of Doulut Rou at about 10 o'clock a m on the 16 Immediately on learning it I signified my intention of paying him a visit of condolence in the afternoon which being well received I accordingly waited on him and found him accompanied by Abba Chitness, his brother Krishna and others of the principal ministers and chieftains of the deceased Patill.

I apprehend Doulut Rao to be about 14 years of age, of a short stature but ingenuous countenance and discreet deportment with the general character of prudence beyond his years, nor does he seem wanting in that degree of bodily health and vigor requisite to an active life

It might be supposed that from the near parity of age and his frequent participation in the Peshwa's youthful exercises of horsemanship since his arrival here, Doulut Rou may have established an interest in the Peshwa's personal regard, but I fear the affections of princes are generally too much occupied by objects of policy to leave much room for dependence on such a contingency, particularly in the discussions that must now ensue on Doulut Rou's succession to the chiefship of the domain and family of Sindia, in which my long acquaintance with this Govt. teaches me that no impulse of generosity will for a moment divert it from the most rigid prosecution of its minutest interests

Generosity aside, Doulut Rou and his ministers might rest well satisfied should the Peshwa's views be regulated by rectitude ; but as invidious designs cannot be pursued by candid measures, I greatly fear the first steps will be to undermine that unanimity which has hitherto so fortunately subsisted amongst the ministers and chieftains of the deceased, whose numbers and consequent variety of objects and disposition expose them too much to the acts and power of this Court

Yet as observed in my last address the season is certainly favourable for all those powers who, threatened or oppressed by the excessive and formidable power of this State wish to check its more dangerous extension or consolidation and which particularly in the suspicious point of this Court's assumptions under Mogul titles, might, I presume, be easily effected should it be deemed wise so to do by the exertion of the Vizier's credit and authority at the Court of Dehly, which in all human probability would be gladly countenanced by those chiefs and principalities in the north that aspire at new or wish to confirm former independence.

I think it not improbable but in the course of the discussions of Doulut Rou's investiture, applications may be made to me for the Hon'ble Company's countenance on the foundation of our cordial friendship with the deceased and the character of guarantee held by him between us and this Govt., in which event permit me to request your sentiments on the degree of encouragement to be given to such advances and whether it would be allowable to use such a situation to the acquirement of any political advantages either of this State or D R., particularly the recovery of that valuable city and district of Broach, which might perhaps be with equal propriety received as it was granted in return for political service, which it is very probable will not at all events remain long in the possession of the Sindia family

On the expiration of the period of mourning (12 days from the death) I shall regulate myself in the congratulatory ceremonies that may ensue by the conduct of those whose examples it may suit my situation to follow

Since writing thus far I am given to understand that orders have been dispatched express to Gopal Bhou (the brother of the principal Ministers Aba and Krishna Chitness and commanding Sindia's principal force in the north) to settle as well as may be his demands on the Dattea Raja and other chieftains in that quarter, to proceed without delay toward Dehly and to encamp in its neighborhood, a measure strongly indicative of the importance attributed by these people to the preservation of the Marratta interests in that shadow of a royal court, to which since its falling under their influence the policy of these people has induced them to attribute the source of authority with a view to the conversion of all the advantages of long established prescriptive right to the purposes of their actual power.

Immediately after my leaving Doulut Rou the Peshwa paid him a visit on the same occasion on which all complimentary forms being constantly and universally discarded, nothing passed but the usual profession of concern under which the mourner is supposed to be for his loss mixed with expressions of consolation and encouragement for the future, which are said to have been such on the present occasion as to furnish favourable expectations to the adherents of the late and present chief

From a deliberate consideration, Hon'ble Sir, of the great change of circumstances in this Empire by M S's death, I am disposed to think as hinted in my last, that should the enforcement of our defensive propositions (the benefits of which are not I confess very clear to my mind) be deemed worthy of being put to the test, it might be done in the strong terms of declining all further defensive engagement to the State on the treaties of Poona and Seringputtun, if his Ldship's propositions are rejected. Nor would this declaration of exclusive liberation from engagement with this State, affect our connexion with the Nazim on the strength of the same treaties or of our previous engagements to him which would, I presume, prove sufficiently binding on our mutual interests agreeable to our respective power without going to the objectionable length of a separate treaty.

Tho' on the one hand I am of opinion that this language may be graceful, yet is it for you, Hon'ble Sir, to determine whether the object is worthy an experiment that in its most studied and most moderate application is not perhaps free from the appearance of a dictatorial air, yet scarce more so liable to that imputation than this Court's late treatment of our answer in concert with the Nazim to its proposition.

**No. 212.**—Malet discusses with Palmer the probable consequences of Mahadji's death.

FROM—C W. MALET,

TO—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER.

*Poona, 21st February 1794*

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure to receive your favour of the 27th Ultimo on the 17th Instant The fatal period that has lately been put to Mhadjee Sindia's extraordinary career has also put an end to all our doubts and conjectures as to his future objects and designs, but thereby our surmizes are only transferred from what he might have extended, to what this state will do in the great field that is now opened to it of disposing of the immense power established by the deceased Chieftain, so as best to prevent those confusions to which it is singularly exposed by the loss of its head and to

convert its exertions to the objects of the state which I am sorry to say are ever to be suspected by its neighbours and dependants of every description. of which there can (not ?) be a stronger instance than in the late affair of Govinrou Guykwar, a very considerable part of whose principality would undoubtedly (but for our interposition which I am happy to find favourably thought of by you) have been added to the already too ponderous mass of the Peshwa's power.

**No. 213.**—Malet communicates to the G. G. the plans under consideration at the Court of Poona for the succession of Daulatrao Sindhia.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JN. SHORE.

*Poona, 21st February 1794.*

Since my last address of 17th Instant the Ministers of the late M. Sindea have been busily engaged in establishing the confidence of the moneyed men for the payment of the very large sums owing to them by the deceased and thereby encouraging them to a continuation of their necessary assistance to the affairs of their new master, so absolutely necessary to the keeping up the immense military force now on foot and for preserving the consistency of the vast political fabrick raised by the late Patill From the measures already taken, there at present appears no cause to dread serious failure in this important branch of the Sindean Govert., in the support of which the moneyed interest is deeply concerned by the mode practised by the deceased of making over districts by assignment for the payment of his creditors, thereby adding the solidity of a landed interest in the permanence of his family power to their original moneyed one.

I understand (tho' not from the deceased's ministry) that the original intention of addressing you a letter of advice from Doulut Rou of his predecessor's death is dropped on the plea of its being unusual to write on such a subject but that after receiving letters of condolence from you, the Vizier and Nizam, letters announcing Doulut Rou's succession will be written This mode seems calculated to draw a previous acquiescence in his right to the succession from those powers whose acknowledgment of it may be of consequence to the affairs of the young claimant in which it is yet impossible to pronounce what part will be taken by this Court

The consideration of the circumstances of no letter having been addressed to you, of the uncertainty of what may pass between this Court and Doulut Row and of the degree of political weight that will be ultimately left to him added to the recollection of my holding no public character relatively to him. will make me very circumspect in my future intercourse with him till regulated by your instructions.

The hostilities mentioned in my last are still prosecuting by this State

I have just heard that to avoid the confusions that might ensue from any delay or uncertainty in giving an head to the Sindian Power, it is in contemplation by the Durbar to hold up Doulut Rou as the fittest for their purpose in prevention of those evils and for the conversion of the power of the family to the objects of the State, to which end a Keellat of condolence is to be presented to him on the 25th instant and of investiture about the 2nd or 7th of March, when having by these measures found time to draw the power of the family under their authority and thereby prevented foreign or domestic disturbance, they will be able at leisure having the person of Doulut Rou at their disposal to prosecute their views on the independance of his family.

As I have not yet received any official intimation from the deceased Patil's ministers relative to Doulut Row, I am of course destitute of any foundation for suggesting the expediency of any letters of condolence or congratulation from you to his address.

**No. 214.**—Malet suggests that the British should form an alliance with the Nizam to counteract the ascendancy of the Marathas

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JN. SHORE.

*Poona, 24th February 1794.*

Since my last address of the 21st Instant nothing material has occurred here, nor have I received any official intimation either from this Court or the deceased Patil's Ministry that the investiture of Doulut Rou with the Keellat of succession to the Chief-ship of the family of Sindia is resolved on, tho' reports are circulated of such communication having been made to the Nazim's Vackeels. I have also reason to think that a similar intimation to me was proposed but declined

From the reason I had to think that the last official communication of this Durbar on the subject of defensive arrangement which struck so deeply at his Highness the Nazim's independance derived its spirit chiefly from M. Sindia, I took a mode of sounding a leading member of the Durbar on the probability of the tenor of that answer being converted into an amicable coincidence in the joint propositions of the Company and the Nazim, on my explaining in a moderate and conciliatory answer to the Durbar's last communication the good policy and real expediency of so doing.

In answer to this application (made in a private and confidential manner) I have been told that as letters to the same purport were written

to the Nazim about the time the above answer was given to me, it will be necessary to see what effect those letters to His Hss and answers to me will have on the Goverts of Calcutta and Hyderabad, before anything decisive can be said as to any alteration in the last communication of this Court

From this trait I draw an inference corroborative of the idea ventured in my late addresses that the present is a favourable opportunity both for the Nabob to assert a reasonable degree of independence in maintaining his opinion on a point of common concern, and for our countenancing his Hss thereon, by supporting the superior eligibility of the original propositions should the further agitation of specific defensive articles be found expedient.

Permit me also, Hon'ble Sir, to suggest on the persuasion with which I am strongly impressed of the actual existence at this moment of a rivalry of interest between our Govert and this for ascendancy in the Nazim's Councils, on our part only for the honorable purpose of maintaining his Hss's independence and thereby our own and the general tranquillity, on the part of this Durbar with the dangerous view of confirming its ascendancy over his dominion, permit me I say, Hon'ble Sir, to suggest that there could not be a fairer opportunity of promoting his Hss's efforts for emancipation nor one less exposed to commitment in the prosecution or to objection on principles of equity than continuing in concert with him to urge in a firm and moderate manner the admission of the articles in which two of the grand contracting parties have acquiesced and which on any reasonable objection being made by the Board and this State may be modified and accommodated. In this suggestion, however, I must beg to be understood as still writing under the proviso of "the further agitation of defensive arrangement being found expedient," and that the temper of His Hss the Nazim's Govert gives just ground of confidence to prosecute that agitation in concert with him.

It is reported that the Raja of Colapore, having in vain attempted to deprecate the vengeance with which he was threatened by Parshuram Bhou by the honorable release of his captive son, and having with as little success remonstrated against the Bhou's ungenerous return for so liberal an act by the continuation of hostilities, has again had recourse to arms, and by a successful night attack driven Bhou's troops from the posts which they had established in the neighbourhood of Colapore, the Raja's Capital. Whether this be true or not, it is certain that the Peshwa's operations against this Chief and Angria have not hitherto effected any thing decisively advantageous, while the rigorous prosecution of them is looked on with an evil eye by all the other Marratta chieftains. I have not lately heard anything of the state of the hostilities against Doanjee Waug and the Dessye of Kittor.

I have endeavoured to benefit by the despatch of the Belvedere and Fitz William, India-men from Bombay, to transmit under the 22nd instant to the Chairman of the Court of Directors duplicate of my address of the 12th with the addition of such extracts from my subsequent addresses to you, as may serve to give our superiors some idea of the state of affairs here in consequence of the Patell's death to the date of my letter of 21st instant.

**No. 215.**—In dealing with the affair of succession to the Sindhia's domain, Malet sends proposals to the G. C. for securing certain advantages to the Company, as regards Baroda, Cambay and Kolhapur.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE

*Poona, 28th February 1794.*

I had the honor to address you on the 24th Inst

On the 25 the Peshwa visited Doulut Rou and presented him with a Keellat on the conclusion of the period of mourning ceremonies.

Not having yet received any intimation whatever from this Court or Doulut Rou's ministers of his succession to the station of the late M Sindia, nor having received any information of letters announcing the same being despatched or meant to be dispatched to you, which considering the predicament in which the late Patil stood with respect to our Govert. by the treaty of Salbye, seem extraordinary, I have waved paying any visit on the cessation of the mourning period and shall do the same on the ensuing ceremony of investiture unless induced to change my intention by the conduct of this Court or Douluts Rou's ministry. But in observing this line I shall, should there be occasion, allege that as my personal respect for the deceased and his successor was evinced in my visit of condolence and as all subsequent intercourse must be that of the two states for my guidance, in which as I am destitute of all official information from the Peshwa and Doulut Rou and possess no official character nor instruction from my own Govert., it will be incumbent on me to waive further intercourse until invited to it by the friendly advances of the former or authorized by the official sanction of the latter.

On the 27th I received a take leave visit from Rouba\*, the executive minister of Govinrou Guykwar, who having been left here to settle some affairs on his master's departure for Guzerat, acquainted me that having despatched his business he should proceed to join his master at his capital Broda on the 2nd of next month. In the course of his visit he expatiated

\* Raoji Appaji.



much on the attachment of his master to the Company and on the mutual advantages that might be derived to the Company and the Guykwar family from the preservation of so desirable a cordiality.

He also gave me to understand that his master thought the appropriation of the Guykwar share of the Broach collections to M. Sindia in the cession of that place by the Co. was incompatible with the general principle of restitution on which the Treaty of Salbhye was founded, and hinted that the Guykwar family would not let slip a favourable opportunity of making its claim on Mahadji Sindia's successors. Without entering into the merits of this language, I only advised that Govinrou should look well to the proper regulation of the principality he had lately been so fortunate as to acquire, before he entered on the invidious task of making doubtful claims.

On departure he presented me copies of the instruments passed between this Govert and his Master in the late accommodation of his affairs, translations of which shall be transmitted to you.

In the course of conversation Rouba gave me to understand that intrigues were carrying on by the Peshwa's Ministers to take advantage of the weak Govert. of the sea-port town of Cambay to seize that city and district, a circumstance which I have thought worthy of submitting to your notice from our ancient establishment of a factory in that city with considerable immunities and from the frequency of our interposition in favour of its Nabob on former occasions of being attacked by this Govert.\*

This good understanding of the B'bay Govert. with that of C'bay was once carried to the length of sending a member of the Bombay Council with the Nabob to Poona to mediate the accommodation of some differences that had taken place and which was actually effected under that mediation, for the conditions of which I will apply to the B'bay Govert.

For the rest I have only to observe that if the present Government of Cambay is or becomes too weak for its own preservation, I should greatly prefer, as would, I am convinced, its inhabitants, its transference to the Compy, could it be done with any degree of eligibility, which, if you please, I will endeavour to discover to the ruling family by a provision for its contentment rather than annihilation by the Marrattas, since from its admirable commercial situation, its possession by the Company would indubitably be productive of infinitely more extensive benefits to that rich part of Guzerat of which it is the port and to the commercial interests of the western side of India in general, than by the Marrattas, whose Govert. is palpably hostile to commerce as is strikingly exemplified in the

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\* It is interesting to notice in this letter Malet's proposals about the affairs of Baroda, Cambay, Broach, Kolhapur and others like Kolaba, all examples of that policy of disuniting the interests of the various Maratha feudatories as advocated in his letter No 211 dated 17th February 1794. All details of such extraneous topics however are excluded from this volume, as it is concerned mainly with the Court of Poona.

comparison of the present state of Broach with what it was under our Govert. It is worthy of notice, Hon'ble Sir, that the sea-ports of Surat, Broach and Cambay on the rivers Tappi, Nurbadda and Myhe, command the most valuable part of the commerce of the rich and trading province of Guzerat, the first we possess, the second we did possess, and the third is in a state that in a manner invites and long has invited our possession, having for many years preserved its independance by the credit of our support

It is confidentially reported that some of the troops employed against Doanje Waug and the Dessye of Kittoor have been roughly treated. An action is also said to have taken place between Parsaram Bhou and the Raja of Colapore the issue of which is variously reported. I hear nothing particular relative to the hostilities against Colabba, Angria's residence

I am informed that 16 of the principal Ministers of the late M Sindea have sworn fidelity to each other and to Doulut Rou in their present discussions with this Court and settlement of their new Master's Govert., on the spot where the corpse of the late Patill was burnt, a circumstance which tho' indicative perhaps of good intention implies at least some suspicion of its permanence

Should you, Hon'ble Sir, wish to take advantage of the present weakness of the Colapore Raja to punish his frequent and very culpable conduct toward the Company or of his embarrassments and treatment against this State, to urge him to such terms of accommodation as might be productive of indemnification for the past and future advantage to him and us against this State, there could not be a better opportunity than the present.

**No. 216.**—Malet explains to Kirkpatrick the line of action to be taken with regard to the guarantee engagement in view of Mahadji's death.

FROM—C. W MALET,

TO—CAPT. WM KIRKPATRICK.

*Poona, 28th February 1794.*

I have been duly favoured with your letter of the 20th Instant.

By my address of the 13th Ultimo to the Governor General previous to the death of M Sindia you will perceive that on receipt of this Court's last communication on the subject of defensive engagement, I satisfied myself on the same principles as now adduced by you with waiving further agitation of it and, by making a reference of it to the Govr Genl, left room for concerting at leisure with His Hss the Nazim any such steps as Govert in its wisdom might think proper to adopt

The material change that has since occurred by the death of M. Sindia has induced me to submit to the same judgment such ideas as have arisen and which, by placing the subject in the most extensive and comprehensive point of view, have been advanced merely to give Govert every information that occurred to me might be useful in deciding on so important and so delicate a subject.

You will also perceive that the confidential intimation mentioned in my last address to the Govr Genl is exactly calculated at once to give the Minister an opening to gratify any tendency he may have to give a more favorable reception to our propositions than has hitherto been signified by this Court and to remove all cause of complaint against our silence, should that be the line adopted by Govert.

**No. 217.**—Malet puts forth some suggestions for the G G, to check the dangerous spirit of the Maratha power which was likely to be strengthened by the addition of Sindia's force.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE.

*Poona, 3rd March 1794.*

I had the honor to address you under the 28th Ultimo. If it could be clearly ascertained that a cordial intercourse would be established between Tippoo Sultan and the Nabob Nazim by the liberal mode of proceeding advised by Capt Kirkpatrick (and doubtless some return may be expected for generous acts), surely the backwardness of his Hss's Ministry is to be lamented, particularly as the establishment of such a cordiality would place His Hss's Govert in a situation of greater security to withstand the unfriendly designs of this Court originating in a jealousy of his apparent close connexion with us and that tone of independence in which from a reliance on the appearance of our support and on his late intrigues with Sindia, he has for some time past conducted himself to this court and avoided compliance with its demands; and on this ground the assent of His Hss to the restitution of Tippoo's sons will, I apprehend, be opposed by the Maratta interest in His Hss's councils. For as that measure will be accomplished by the mission of a confidential gentleman from our Govert charged with such friendly communications as may cement the good understanding, the foundation of which it is to be supposed has been laid by the treatment the young Princes have met with at Madras and in which the interests of the Nazim's Govert, will be necessarily included, its execution will be comparatively obnoxious here.

Permit me, Hon'ble Sir, to suggest the expediency of my being furnished with instructions formally to announce to this Government the intended

return of Tippoo's sons whenever the settlement of the points in suspense between the Courts of Hyderabad and Seringputtun may enable Capt Kirkpatrick to furnish me with accounts of their termination

Some discordant symptoms have made their appearance in the two great branches of the late M Sindea's Ministry which that politic chieftain knowing the danger of an entire Braman administration had balanced by a number of the Senoy or Sinoee tribe whom he placed in great trust and authority, the Chief of these are Bhou Bucshy, Jeajee Bucshy, and Bappo Tautca\* whose party is very powerful in the army, the chief management of it being in their hands. While on the other hand the three brothers Abba Chitnees, Christna Chitnees and Gopal Bhou with Ballo Myrza (?) constitute the powerful head of the Bramin party and will I conceive be supported by Nanna Furnaveese and their Bramin brethren of this ministry, a support that will probably be effectual, if it be true, as I am inclined to think it is, that Nanna by partonizing, under their authority the interest of Doulut Rou, means to convert the formidable power of the Sindean family ready formed to his hand, to promote the general interests of the Peshwa's state particularly in his designs against the Nazim

Should the practicability of checking the excessive power and dangerous spirit of this Govert now or hereafter become the subject of your consideration, permit me, Hon'ble Sir, to suggest that nothing would tend more essentially to effect it than the reestablishment of that respectable force under able commanders which constituted the B'bay army previous to the late war, the far greater part of which is now employed in separate stations on the Mullabar Province and if the maintenance of such a force was deemed expedient at that presidency without the advantage of the additional revenue of our late conquests, I humbly presume the wisdom of the measure cannot be lessened by the accession of new resources for defraying the expense of it. At all events it should seem that the advantage of that accession will be problematical if by only enabling us to defray the expense of our former force it deprives us in a great measure of the effect of that force (material as it was on the councils of this State) by division.

As in this suggestion I am speaking merely with regard to this State, I shall waive anticipating any argument that may be adduced for or against the present arrangement of the Bombay force in the Mallabar Province with regard to its influence on Tipoo Sultan's respect for our power, which respect even should his power ever again become obnoxious, would necessarily increase in proportion to the increase of force above suggested

Doulut Rou was this day formally invested by the Peshwa at the Durbar with the Keellat of succession to his adoptive father Mhadjee Sindea

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\*Jagoba Bapu and Baloba Tatyā Pagnis.

**No. 218.**—The two Residents of Hyderabad and Poona concert measures in mutual consultation for counteracting the ambitious propensities of the Marathas. Malet sends this important communication to Kirkpatrick, and argues against undertaking any guarantee engagement either for the Peshwa or the Nizam.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—KIRKPATRICK

*Poona, 3rd March 1794.*

I embrace with real pleasure the opening you have so handsomely afforded me of gratifying my anxious desire of benefiting myself and the publick by a free and amicable discussion with you of the very important political affairs, that must necessarily fall under our cognizance and in which from the extent of our empire and the temper of our neighbours, our Govt., notwithstanding the equity of its principles and the specific spirit of its rulers, must be incessantly exposed to disturbance

Be assured, Sir, that I so much envy you the honor of having commenced this friendly and confidential prosecution of private information and publick benefit, that I shall strive the more zealously to emulate you in its progress and as in our unreserved disclosure of sentiment, hints may occur the knowledge of which may not be worthy the notice of Govt, permit me to submit the extension of your proposal to the submission of copies of our correspondence to the confidential inspection of our mutual friend and superior Sr. Jn Shore. Should you approve this addition to your plan I enclose copy of this to accompany one of your last and without further preface or apology will proceed to reply to it as briefly and plainly as in my power.

With respect to defensive engagement with His Hss. the Nizam, I have to submit to you whether we are not sufficiently pledged to him by Ld C's letter of 7th July 1789, independant of the subsequent treaties of Paungul and Puttun, to obviate the inconvenience alleged of acting in the face of penal statutes, and in my humble opinion it is the defense of the Nazim alone that seems to exhibit much occasion for our aid, tho' were it not provided for as thus observed by us, I humbly presume, that his Hss continuing the same concert that he hitherto has with this Court, he would thereby and by its occasional aid (stipulated I believe by mutual agreements) be secured as hitherto from any great progress of the Mysore arms. Thus much for the necessity of new engagements to His Hss. While on the other hand as to His Hss.'s engagements to us, I am inclined to think that the stipulations of the treaties of Puttun and Paungul without going back to those of (I believe) '66 and '68, will answer our purpose (if the tenor of them should accord with the politics of the Ministry of the day) as well as any others, as I suspect that the construction of our last

propositions in the event of our calling for their execution, would be regulated entirely by the circumstances of his Hss's Govert at the time.

With respect to the expediency of our defensive engagements to this State, I am in the first place doubtful of the power of Tippo (particularly reduced as it now is) ever to make the impression you apprehend to be practicable in such a degree as to interest us materially in counteracting it. While on the other hand by this State's reliance on its defensive engagements with us for the safety of its south frontier, it becomes enabled to bend its whole efforts toward the north and n e which I deem highly obnoxious to our interests. Again, from the peculiar tendency to decline and debility of Mahommedan Goverts., I hold the dynasty of Mysore less permanent in itself and less likely to produce a succession of vigorous administrations than this Govert, in which case the extreme art of these people would expose us to the dangerous predicament of forwarding its ambitious views by instigating disputes in such a manner as to throw the appearance of aggression on the Mysorean. Indeed the art of both is so great that whenever either chooses to bring on hostility, the point of aggression will, I apprehend, be a very knotty one. I confess that the argument of the expediency of defensive engagement, to enable us to pursue such measures as the preservation of our empire may require in the face of penal statutes, places the subject in a point of view so new and curious as to involve a train of very interesting political reflexion. But permit me to ask whether the formation of such engagements on such grounds is not in the first instance a kind of trespass by anticipation on the spirit of those statutes, without adverting to the orders of the Company for avoidance of implication in native politics.

Having troubled you with this much on the expediency of the influence of defensive engagement in our aid of this State, I must frankly confess that as to our expectation, on any engagement of aid from it, my experience of its genius and knowledge of its temper convince me that no more is to be expected than will be perfectly suitable to its convenience and its own opinion of its interest at the time. Would it not therefore be better to be freed from engagements, the whole operation of which is beneficial to this Govert, in some measure to our detriment, than to be bound to serve it without the smallest confidence of a return?

I will not hesitate to acknowledge that emancipation from defensive engagement with this Court seems rather desirable than practicable. In suggesting it, however, I have always expressed my sense of the difficulty and left the execution to the wisdom of Govert. And it must not be forgotten that this Court in its last official communication on the subject has thrown even its own declaration of 3rd July last into a state of nullity.

I look upon this Court's assumption of Mogul titles and pretensions to have originated in a dangerous grasping spirit and being subsequent to our treaty of Salbyhe also totally unconnected with the character of the Peshwa, in which that treaty was formed and in which only this State is entitled to our acknowledgment of its power. I am further of opinion that the counteraction of the assumption of the titular Vackeelat-Mutluck in any case clashing with our interests would be justifiable and might probably be effected with greater ease now than at some future period, when the prosecution of the pretensions of the character may expose us to greater difficulty, a predicament that from the dangerous extension of the Marratta arms and influence in the north and n. e. merits in my humble opinion our most circumspect attention. But in what I mentioned as to the practicability of the Vizier's checking this Court's views at Dehly, I meant it rather as one trait in the general sketch that I have endeavoured to convey to Covert, of this State's political situation after the death of M S than to urge the policy of our appearing to countenance the Vizier in superceding the authority of this State over the Mogul pretensions; much less did I mean to be understood as wishing to extend the Vizier's power in the proportion of the curtailment of this State's

Having thus complied with your wish and followed your example in a frank tho' hasty exposition of the points mentioned in your favor of 23rd ulto., I shall conclude with a general assurance that how much so ever I may err in judgment or fail in expression, it shall not be from any deficiency in candor or in that esteem with which I shall ever be happy to acknowledge myself your most obedient &c.

**No. 219.**—Malet communicates to the G G the happenings at Poona, the investiture of Daulatrao Sindia with powers of his Jagir and the illness of Haripant Phadke. He also explains the implications of the release of Tipu's sons who were kept as hostages in Madras.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—SR JN. SHORE.

*Poona, 7th March 1794.*

Since my last address of the 3 inst, I have been favored with a letter from Mr. Secy. Jackson of the 14 ultimo, intimating the intended release and departure of Tippu Sultaun's sons from Madras on their return to their capital, accompanied with a letter from Capt. Kirkpatrick of the 28th ultimo mentioning his having received similar intimation and his hopes in consequence of being able to acquaint me by his next despatch of the issue of his communication on the subject to his Court.

I have therefore thought proper to defer advising this Court of the intention of the Madras Govert until enabled to accompany my communication with the requisite explanations that must rest on the advices promised me by Captain Kirkpatrick and to which I shall request him to add the document containing the conditional assent of the Nazim to the release of the hostages, on which your orders for that purpose have been issued to the Madras Government, which conditional assent is mentioned in Capt Kirkpatrick's address to you of the 22nd ultimo, having been as officially signified by Sr Kennaway under 28th Decr. but with copy of which I have not been furnished

Permit me, Hon'ble Sir, to submit to you at the same time, whether agreeable to the engagements of the three States this Court can be called on to enforce Tippoo's compliance with any points that being left unsettled at the time of the return of the hostages, it may hereafter be found proper to insist on, unless its formal assent to their return is previously obtained on an explanation of the case, since otherwise in the event of altercation ensuing, the Peshwa possibly may evade taking a part in terminating it on the plea that as hostages were taken to ensure a faithful execution of the treaty of Puttun and released previous to that execution without his assent, he cannot be answerable for the consequences

As these circumstances appear necessary to be known to the Govert. of Madras, I have by this post transmitted copy of the above to Sr. Chals. Oakley.

Since my last address an oblique advance has been conveyed to me from Doulut Rou's Ministers to my waiting on their Master and of taking that opportunity to talk with me on the connexion of the two Goverts., to which through the same channel, I replied in the spirit of what is mentioned as my intention in my address of the 28th ultimo

The Ministry of this young Chieftain seem to be now busied in reducing the superfluous expenses of their late master which were excessive

I find that in the Keellat conferred on Doulut Rou on the 3rd instant, the Durbar has artfully kept to itself a check on the conduct of his Ministers by a reservation of the Sicca (Seal), Kuttar (Dagger) and Zerree Patka (or golden standard), which as being the specific insignia of the delegation of the Peshwa's power, seem the most material part of the investiture, the omission of which tho' on pretence of something inauspicious in the then position of the planets, is in my opinion imputable to some more artful and more interested motive, tho' I have just received a message from Behio Punt through my Munshy that by the recent Keellat he is placed in the exact predicament with respect to the Peshwa as the late M. Sindia was.



I am credibly informed that 4 lacs of Rupees have been recovered from Kullian Rou and Baba Rou, the Nazim's agents by Doulut Rou's Ministers since the Patill's death, which probably may be part of the 5 lacs mentioned in Capt. Kirkpatrick's address to you of the 22nd ultimo

Hurry Punt who continues occasionally (and perhaps politically) afflicted with a complaint in his bowels set out a few days ago on a religious excursion to a temple at Sid-da-Teyk about 30 coss hence, his son Madarou is still busied in carrying on his operations against Colabba, but I do not learn with any great effect nor does it appear that the proceedings against Doanjce Waug and the Raja of Colapoic are much more decisive

I am this instant favoured with a letter from Capt. Kirkpatrick of the 3rd instant containing the pleasing intelligence of the Nazim's acquiescence in the release of Tipu's sons

**No. 220.**—Malet reports to Kirkpatrick the secret suggestion of the Nazim's minister to the Peshwa's Court that the latter should oppose the release of the hostages of Tipu.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—KIRKPATRICK.

*Poona, 10th March 1794*

Under the sanction of that confidential correspondence so happily established, I think it necessary, in aid of your thorough knowledge of the people we have to deal with, to acquaint you that intelligence has reached me, through a channel that scarce leaves room for doubt, that while the Nazim's Ministry opposed your wish of its acceding to the release of the hostages, it wrote urgently to this Ministry to do the same through me, a circumstance that will, no doubt, have given this Court ground to admire the subsequent facility of His Highness's acquiescence and ought to give us much pleasure in their final coalition with us in the termination of so delicate an affair

**No. 221.**—Malet expresses his regret to Palmer on the latter being passed over in the bestowal of honors.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—MAJOR WM. PALMER.

*Poona, 10th March 1794.*

I have been favoured with your letter of the 9th ultimo and was concerned to learn from it the levity with which the highest military honors had been extended to persons vested with no public characters to

us and by whose secondary station in their own governments, no reserve of distinction seems to be left for principals, a circumstance particularly worthy of notice in this part of the world, where so much real importance is attributed to these acts of ceremony. As however it has taken place, and as the Putell to whom it may have been supposed to be personally exceptionable is now no more, I have deferred delivering your letter to his successor and hope you will acquiesce in the propriety of my so doing, as without involving us in the formality of an explanation which might have been due to our cordiality with the Putell, I will take care to propagate such a knowledge of the circumstances of Col. Briscoes' conduct, as without derogating from the respectability of his character while vested with so important a command, I shall remove all idea of its having been an act of Government. If my recollection of what passed between you and Ally Bhadeo is correct, perhaps there are few personages who merit less honorary notice from your Government or nation than him.

(For chronological order Nos 226-228 may be read here.)

**No. 222.**—Sir John Shore wrote a long and masterly minute on the political state of India indicating how the balance of power can be preserved under the circumstances. The minute is dated 25th March 1793 and is in this covering letter enclosed for the information of Sir Charles Malet.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—CHARLES MALET.

*Calcutta, 11th April 1794*

It has long been my intention to send you some political reflections which I drew out more than a year ago, and I have now the pleasure to enclose them, together with the copy of a minute which I recorded on the death of Madajee Scindiah.

On the first paper two remarks will readily occur to you, first that I have been mistaken in several of my opinions, and secondly, that I have generally adhered to the principles which I have detailed.

My motive for this communication is, that you may know the principles upon which I act, and that I may receive the advantage of your sentiments upon them. Captain Kirkpatrick will assure you that I am ever ready to consider any opinions however contrary to my own with the greatest attention, and that I am really obliged to my friends for the freedom of their communications. With respect to yourself particularly, although I cannot always find time to give you an explanation of the reasons which sometimes induce me to differ from your opinion, you may be assured that I have the greatest deference for it, and that I ever weigh it with the attention it is entitled to before I decide.

It may be proper also to mention to you, that I do not wish you to adopt my opinions as a rule of conduct in any points on which my official instructions are silent.

**No. 223.**—Sir John Shore's reflections on the Political state of India, written about March 25th, 1793.

If the principles of conduct adopted by the different potentates of India with respect to each other were the same as those professed by the British nation and the Delegates of the East India Company, political speculation would be restricted within very narrow limits, and the attention of this Government would be rarely distracted from the pleasing duties of internal arrangement ; but whilst we publicly avow without hesitation the renunciation of ambitious conquests, an inviolable adherence to our engagements, a determination to maintain our rights and territories and those of our allies without suffering or committing encroachments, and observe good faith and moderation in all transactions, we shall find the political system of the eastern powers of a very different complexion.

An administration acting up to the principles which I have detailed, and supported by such real power as we possess, can have little to fear from the force or intrigues of other nations, and although our dominion may for a time be convulsed by their efforts, it can never sink under them. The same virtues, which conciliate esteem and respect in private society, are the sources of public honours and political reputation ; they are the foundation of friendships in domestic, of confidence and alliance in national intercourse, and it may be fairly presumed that without a desertion of our principles we shall never be totally abandoned by our allies. An adherence to them under all circumstances is therefore indispensable and we shall in politics, as in all other cases, find ease as well as security in our rectitude, in as much as it is easier and safer to proceed in a straight line than to pursue a winding, distorted course.

But whilst we are sure of our own principles and morally certain that they form the strongest barrier against the hostile encroachments of ambition and intrigues of jealousy, we must not overlook the motives by which our neighbours are actuated and supinely rely upon the influence of our conduct to control them. Our real and in fact only security is our power ; that depends on the equity, wisdom and humanity of our internal government, and as long as it rests upon these foundations will never be subverted, and whilst it is competent to repel ambition, we may trust to the rectitude of our political principles and the moderation of our conduct to disarm the jealousy, which national power ever has a tendency to excite. The positions are too evident to require exemplification, but it appears so obvious in the events of the late war, that it cannot be overlooked.

That War, so just in its origin, so glorious in its conclusion, has occasioned an important alteration in the political state of Hindostan, and the ambition of the allied powers (the English excepted) no longer restrained by the dread of an haughty, ambitious, intolerant despot, has a wider range for enterprize, and new allurements for exertion.

The balance of power is, however, decidedly in the hands of the English, and it is their interest to hold it as steady as possible without risking an implication in the consequences if their efforts to preserve it should prove ineffectual.

To succeed in this, we must not only watch events as they arise but carefully study the genius, manners and form of Government of the people with whom we are by friendship or situation connected, as furnishing the most solid means of judgment with respect to their probable views and conduct. With this knowledge, assisted by that of the characters of the individuals who compose their administrations, we shall seldom be erroneous in our conclusions or dubious as to the measures which we ought to pursue.

The Mahratta dominion is an aristocracy which connects many discordant individuals, but avarice, ambition and rapacity are the ruling principles not only of the paramount Government of Poonah but of all the feudatory chieftains. Cautious in deliberation, slow and circumspect in decision, wily and provident in their choice of measures, the Poona Ministers are never betrayed into precipitate concessions; intrenched by forms and ceremonials, with the observance of which they never dispense, they trust to delay and procrastination as the safest rules of political conduct, jealousy and suspicion form an essential part of their character, and are often pretended, and assumed on false grounds, with a view to different objects. A zeal for their religion may be fairly imputed to them as a secondary passion subordinate to political views, and at present may be considered as a dormant principle which time and circumstances may at a favourable opportunity rouse into action.

To penetrate the real motives or decipher the artful measures of such an administration through the veil of mystery and secrecy with which they are covered, is always difficult, often impossible and very rarely necessary, as long as we adhere to our professed principles; and in fact there is more danger in doing too much than in doing (too) little. The discovery of their views is oftener effected by an apparent indifference to them than by employing direct modes of enquiry.

The same caution seems necessary to ensure the success of our negotiations with them. In proportion to the urgency with which the proposed object is pursued, their caution and reserve increase, for their jealousy takes alarm at every new proposition, augments with importunity,

and success is often attained by a suspension of the measures apparently calculated to ensure it. In all our transactions with the Mahrattas the advantages derived from prudent forbearance are evident.

Nothing can exhibit a greater contrast than the candid liberality of our policy with the concealed art of the Mahratta administration, the honor and delicacy of our conduct with the meanness and indelicacy of theirs; a promptitude to take advantage of our liberality without any idea of granting a return and a disposition to encroach without any sense of shame on its being repelled, frequently occur in their negotiations with us, but the dignified firmness of Lord Cornwallis's administration, has imposed silence on claims which a weak conduct would have encouraged.

The nature of the Poonah administration is singular. The titular head of the State is a phantom residing at Sitarah whose person is invisible and unapproachable, and whose name never appears but on the impression of the seals affixed to treaties and public deeds. He is to all active purposes nonexistent. The person who ought to be the ostensible sovereign is the Peshwa. He is at present fettered by the trammels of minority, and the real and efficient power of the State is held and exerted by the Minister Balajee Pundit or Nana Phurnavese.

This is the person with whom all the business between our Government and the Mahratta State is transacted, and his conduct in general has been as fair, candid and amicable as we could in the nature of things expect. The timidity of his character gives additional strength to the political principles of the Government.

The power of the Minister depends upon the countenance of the Peshwa, his connection with the principal officers, amongst whom we first reckon Hurry Pundit, and in some degree on the friendship of the great feudatory chieftains, such as Sindiah and Tuccojee Holkar. In their various and incessant intrigues for authority it is no part of our policy to interfere, and any attempts from us to support one party or one individual against another, would be imprudent and dangerous. Our connection is with the State, and not with the individuals who compose the administration.

During the late contest with Tippoo a party appeared at Poonah favourable to his interests known by the name of the Rasta Family. They are related to the Peshwah, and made no scruple to avow their opinions and attachments; there is not, however, any reason to conclude that their bias in favour of Tippoo tended to abate the regard of the Peshwah for them or to produce any coolness or dissensions between them and the Minister, nor did it operate to the prejudice of our interests.

The Mahratta administration is Braminical, and all the principal officers of Government, whether civil or Military, are either in the possession of Bramins or so disposed as to be under their controul.

The arrival of Sindiah at the Mahratta Court may be deemed an important occurrence to the interests of that State. Amidst the various reasons assigned for his appearance there are two only which seem to me probable. First, the expectation of participating in the advantages gained by the success of the allies by introducing his interference in any practicable mode, secondly, the exclusive establishment of his own authority in the northern parts of Hindostan by procuring the recall of the commissions given to Ali Behader and Tuckojee Holkar and the appointment of himself as the delegate of the Mahratta Power.

For the accomplishment of these objects, no opportunity could be more favourable than that which he chose, as the principal forces of the State under the command of Hurry Pundit and Perseram Chow were then absent and he had the precaution to support his pretensions by the attendance of a strong army. But the conclusion of the peace, so much earlier than he expected, put a stop at once to his first object. In the second, he seems to have persevered with unremitting attention by endeavouring to conciliate the Peshwah and establish an influence with him. To judge of his probable success or disappointment we ought to be better acquainted with the character of the Peshwah than we now are as well as with the views and dispositions of the officers of the Mahratta State, but the following reflections on this subject may assist our conjectures as to the event.

The power, success and assumed independency of Sindiah have long been objects of jealousy to the Poonah Government whom he has not admitted to any participation of his conquests. By the fundamental laws of their policy they have claims to a participation, and though prudential notices may incline them to a forbearance of their claims, they never allow them to be relinquished. We must of course conclude that the Minister will not yield to a demand which will increase Sindiah's independency as long as he can evade or resist it, and it is probable that he will in the end succeed by one mode or other.

The jealousy excited by Sindiah's pretensions and intrigues must naturally be augmented by the manner in which they are carried on; for the Minister cannot view without disgust, an attempt to seduce the affections of the Peshwah, and diminish his own influence with his sovereign.

I consider the ostentatious display of regal honours procured through Sindiah's mediation for the Peshwah as a part of his plan of conciliation intended to flatter the Peshwah's vanity rather than as originating in the motives assigned by Mr. Malet, allowing, at the same time, that the Mahrattas would be ready to use the nominal authority bestowed upon them, if any advantage could be gained by it.

would have thrown too decided a weight in the scale of the Mahrattas, already too powerful. Policy certainly dictated the propriety of an independant sovereign over the Mysorean States possessed of power sufficient to serve as a barrier but inadequate to the object of successful invasion. The question could only be in this case, whether that independency should be left with Tippoo or be transferred to the ancient sovereigns of Mysore. The antipathy which every Breton bears to Tippoo would hastily pronounce a decision against him without considering the consequences of it, that his substitute must have been supported by the same power which restored him to the throne, (at the risk of improving the experience of the natives in the arts of war and probably at an expense, which would not have been compensated by the acquisition of additional revenues). Our choice then must have fallen upon Tippoo, and the advantages gained over him by the allies being already sufficient for reducing his power within proper limits, it was surely unnecessary to prosecute that advantage under the risks which I have already mentioned and with the certainty of sacrificing a number of brave men for the further diminution of power which we meant afterwards to restore to him. The Mahrattas and the Nizam concurring in this reasoning or from other motives, expressed their hearty approbation of the peace as well as of the terms on which it was concluded.

The late war naturally suggests some very important reflections on the disparity of the forces employed for the establishment of our influence in India and subsequently for maintaining it.

At a period not very remote from the present, a small number of troops commanded by English Officers ventured to oppose with success the numerous armies of the native powers, and the inequality of numbers was of little avail against the united efforts of valour and discipline. The natives have now imitated our arts and we dare no longer trust a body of men in the field that formerly would have penetrated through the opposition of all India, and though it may be presumed that the potentates of Hindostan, from defects inherent in the constitution of their governments and from mistrust of Europeans, will never be able to introduce that discipline in their armies which we have established in ours, or in other words to have as good soldiers as we command, they may attain a point of perfection fatal to the permanency of our possessions in the east. The conclusion, therefore, to be drawn from this reasoning is that war should be avoided as the bane of our interests, a conclusion deducible also upon other grounds and sanctioned by the legislature of Great Britain.

Throughout Hindustan there are but four States of importance, the Poonah Mahrattas, Tippoo Sultaun, the Nizam and Sindia, and it is our interest to keep up good terms with them all, and more particularly with the Mahrattas as the most powerful. I do not consider the Berar

Government or Tuccjee Holkar so formidable or useful as to render any specific alliance with them necessary, and with respect to them, nothing more seems necessary than an amicable intercourse. Whether the Sics are ever likely to become formidable is at present a remote speculation, and the first efforts of their power, on the supposition of its increase, would probably be directed against some of the new conquests of Sindia.

The territories of the Vizier are open to their incursions and an object of temptation to Sindia, who I have no doubt would be inclined to extend his conquests that way if his treaties with the English and more particularly their protecting arms, did not oppose a barrier against him : but in speculating upon possible events, and the operation of dormant principles, it may be useful also to reflect upon the best means of prevention and in this light to consider whether the nature of our forces in Oude and their position are the best calculated to deter invasion or suppress it if it should take place.

It is pleasing to reflect on the respectability of our national character as it stands at this time with the powers of India, and that it never was higher at any period. That state from which we had most to fear is too mutilated and depressed to excite any alarm and with others a friendly alliance has been established. The spirit of jealousy and ambition which animates them all is in one sense a collateral security to us ; its operation without our participation and direction must necessarily tend to invest the balance of power in our hands, where it should be steadily preserved without throwing a preponderance into either of the scales. With respect to our acquisitions on the Malabar Coast, our principal object should be to conciliate our new subjects. I consider the revenue as subordinate in importance, both objects should, however, be united. By proper care and attention in establishing good regulations and in enforcing them, the new settlements may rise to great commercial importance, and to this we ought principally to look.

So much for the political state of India and if my reflections upon it are just, the direction of circumstances by fixed principles will seldom be found very embarrassing.

**No. 224.**—Shore offers condolences to the Peshwa on the death of Mahadji Sindhia  
FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,  
TO—THE PESHWAH.

*Calcutta, 10th April 1794*

I have had the honor to receive your letter (recapitulate that received 2nd April) and have understood its contents.



(After the usual forms of condolence on the death of Sindia) the regard that you have shown to the memory of the deceased by the nomination of Dowlat Row Sindia, the surviving head of his family, to the superintendence of the affairs that you committed to the care of the late Maharajah, and by extending towards the former the same degree of favor and countenance that you manifested towards the latter, is doubtless a liberal and meritorious return for the services of the late Maharajah and cannot but be gratifying to this Government, who from the desire he always showed to maintain and improve the system of friendship and union subsisting with yours, have had reason to consider him as a sincere friend and well-wisher, and who doubt not to experience the same friendly conduct in his successor, and that he will in an equal degree show himself a zealous servant of your state by a faithful discharge of the duties committed to him. For further particulars I beg leave to refer you to the verbal communications of Sir C. W. Malet.

**No. 225.**—Shore congratulates Daulatrao upon his accession.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—DOWLAT ROW SCINDEA.

*Calcutta, 10th April 1794.*

I am favored with your letter (recapitulate that received 2nd instant) and have understood its contents

I have already on hearing the unhappy event of the death of the late Maharajah expressed to you the sentiments of regret that I and all the members of this Government felt on the occasion, but notwithstanding the sorrow they must naturally suffer for the loss of so illustrious a Sirdar, who showed himself so sincere a friend and well-wisher towards this Government, yet, as the Peshwah out of his regard to the memory of the deceased, has been pleased to nominate you to the superintendence of the affairs hitherto committed to the charge of the late Maharajah, I have no doubt but that agreeably to the sentiments expressed in your friendly letter, which have afforded me a great degree of satisfaction, you will equally with him endeavour to cultivate a mutual attachment and regard, and you may be assured that this Government are sincerely disposed to maintain the same friendly connection with you in every respect. I beg leave to congratulate you on this occasion and to assure you that the kindness and liberality manifested in this instance by the Peshwah towards the house of the late Maharajah, has afforded me a great degree of satisfaction as I consider you now precisely in the same light as the late Maharajah. I trust that the same friendly correspondence will be kept

up between us, and that you will constantly gratify me with letters notifying your welfare Sir C W Malet who will have the pleasure to deliver you this, will communicate further particulars on my part.

No. 226.—Malet discusses with Kirkpatrick what latitude and conditions they mutually possess for action, if they were to be guided entirely by Lord Cornwallis's letter of 7th July 1789

FROM—C W MALET,

TO—KIRKPATRICK.

*Poona, 21 March 1794.*

Dear Sir,

I have been duly favored with your polite and obliging letter of the 10th Instant in replying to which and any future one that you may think proper to honor me with, my sole object as I have already professed shall be that of the most candid discussion and the most unreserved communication, in the course of which should truth require, I trust you shall not find me backward to sacrifice at Her Shrine the victim of erroneous opinion, for if I can trust my own mind, I never will, while blessed with the power of discrimination suffer its patriotism to be choked or contracted by a spirit of litigation and controversy.

My opinion of every thing that is requisite or wise in our connexions with the native powers is comprized in a latitude to act as sound policy and self-preservation may dictate, without being conditioned to act where oftensound policy may forbid and when no conditions can give us adequate security of being acted for

That latitude with respect to the Nazim as far as related to Tippoo, and the subsequent treaties extend no further, was I humbly conceive secured by Ld C's letter of 7th July (1789) which having been acquiesced in by the Nazim and formally communicated by our Govert to this Court, I look upon to have the force of a treaty. Thus circumstanced with respect to a defensive latitude to his Hss the Nazim, permit me to repeat that I think further defensive engagements without benefiting him involve an extension to this State the nature of which is explained summarily in my last and at large as often as the subject has occurred throughout my whole correspondence with your predecessor particularly in 1790.

In opposition to this language it may be observed that the letter of 9th (7?) July was more than a latitude, nay a condition, and a condition only in favor of the Nazim, whereas the subsequent defensive articles are reciprocal, I reply that the condition as far as it went, was an evil, but being only for 2 Battns. was not of a nature to lead the Nabob to such a dependance on further support as to induce him lightly or contrary to

our advice to draw on hostilities, and should he unadvisedly have drawn them on, the quota was a small one on our part, and might probably with management have been conducted without much risk, whereas were the danger of the Nabob such and so unavoidable as really to have interested us in his welfare, the condition constituted such a latitude of seconding it as was sufficient for our purpose and tantamount to the subsequent treaties. As to the stress to be laid on the reciprocity of the condition, I have with concern sought in vain for a dependance in his Hss's Government to rest it on and from my entire conviction of the expediency (almost amounting to a necessity) of preserving the Nazim's independance sincerely regret that no circumstance in His Hss's Govert promises a fairer prospect of its ever being more respectable than at present, consequently not more worthy of our confidence.

If the above latitude arising from Ld. C's letter of 7 July is admitted, I presume it will be found equally applicable as the subsequent treaties without their inconveniences in bar of the inferences derived from the conjectural danger of the Mysore Govert attacking that of Hyderabad at a future favourable period, a conjecture that extended a little further, places before my mind the danger of being soon or late involved in the affairs of the Nazim's family, when it may be difficult to ascertain its head and when from the confusions of the succession we may unexpectedly and perhaps unwillingly find ourselves opposed to the views of the State against which we are pointedly precluded all defensive latitude in the behalf of the Nazim. As to the suppositional circumstances of this State being so deeply engaged in its views to the north as to be disabled from affording his Hss effectual assistance against the designs of the Mysorean, it may not be improper to observe that M. Sindia was making at leisure his greatest strides in the north, when in the war of 1786 this state and the Naz. attacked Tipoo and tho' not successfully yet was Tipoo glad to make a peace with but little advantage. The force of the parties then and now will bear no comparison.

I have long contemplated with extreme anxiety the approaching dangers of his Hss's dissolution and have almost taught myself to think that the accomplishment of A. O's palpable designs by his own means alone (individually exceptionable as they may be) with respect to S. J. in exclusion of A. J.\* will be preferable to the domestic horrors and foreign dangers of a disputed succession. But here again the insurmountable difficulty stares us in the face of the party of A. J. being espoused either by this State or Tippoo, which would form the intricate predicament adverted to in my foregoing paragraph. It certainly would be an object highly worthy your best endeavors to suggest a remedy for the evils of this gloomy prospect, and I feel with pleasure that your knowledge and ability give us every reason to assure ourselves that everything that

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\* Sikandar Jah and Ali Jah.

can be done will be effected by you in avoidance of so great dangers, either by procuring a settlement of the succession previous to the Nazim's demise or by any other expedient that may appear more productive of the end proposed, tho' perhaps in the pursuit of such an object you will meet with greater difficulties than from any other quarter in the obliquity of A O's mind and the intricacy of his politics, which, I much fear, prefers the deceitful wiles and fallacious tho' occasionally flattering appearances of the neighbouring native courts, to the more safe but less refined prescriptions of our downright councils

**No. 227.**—Malet reports to Kirkpatrick the intrigues of Babarao.

FROM—C. W MALET,

TO—CAPT KIRKPATRICK.

*Poona, 24 March 1794*

The nature of the enclosed reply to your favor of the 16 will explain to you the necessity of its being put under an official address.

It is reported here that another of his Hss's sons is to be married to a daughter of Teyg Jung but that the ladies of the latter's family object to an intercourse with those of the Minister.

A vast deal of private conference takes place between this Ministry and the agents of His Hss, one of whom Baba Rou, the person who has long been attendant on M Sindia and through whom all the intrigues, by which in my humble opinion His Hss's ministry has been so weakly cajoled into such lavish loans to the late Patell, have been conducted, is shortly to set off for Hyderabad to endeavour to settle the disputed points between the two States. From what I can collect of his character it is that of a loose Asiatic intriguer. Your knowledge precludes the necessity of further description.

**No. 228.**—Shore instructs Malet to continue towards Daulatrao the same friendly regard that was being shown to his predecessor.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET.

*Fort William, 25 March 1794*

I have received your letters and shall hereafter transmit you instructions on such points as may appear to require them in relation to the death of Sindia and succession of Dowlut Row.

At present I think it necessary only to enclose you a letter of condolence to Dowlut Row, and it will be sufficient to add for your present guidance in any conferences you may have on the subject with the Court of Poona, that it is our wish to be on the same friendly footing with the successor to Sindia, as we have been on with him, or, in other words, to cultivate with every branch of the Poona Government the amity and good understanding which have been so firmly established and which in their continuance promise so much reciprocal advantage.

No. 229.—Malet writing to the G. G. informs him of the intention of the Peshwa to pay a visit to Bajirao residing at Anandvalli on the Godavari to offer him condolences on the death of his mother which occurred on March 12.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE.

*Poona, 21 April 1794.*

Since my last address of the 11th instant I find a demur has arisen to the intended visit of Dowlut Rou to the temple of Joti Ling, caused by the difficulties that his Ministers foresee in moving with the whole force here, in which case they would accompany him in person, or in his going with a light party and thereby leaving him so long under the influence of their deputies. This difficulty will probably be submitted to the Peshwa's Ministry and will constitute one of the steps by which the jealousies and divided interests of Dowlut Rou's ministers will probably subject their young master's interests to the views of this Court

A report is circulated with some confidence of the Peshwa's intention to enter his tents on an excursion to the Ganga Godavery with a view to a meeting with Badji Rou, the son of the late Ragnath Rou, whose mother Anundee Byhe is lately dead, an event that, by removing the principal source of instigation to ambitious views in her son, it is by some thought, may afford an opening to a reconciliation between these two branches of the Peshwa family, whose former dissensions have been productive of so great evils to the state. Should this reconciliation ever be effected, the conduct of the Maratta armies and politics in the north would probably be delegated under the designation of Duan to the young Badjirou, an appointment that would effectually bring the whole power of the two great families of Holcar and Sindia and the force now commanded by Ally Bhadur under the control of the Durbar.

From the materials furnished by the B'bay Board of the connexion between that presidency and the Govt. of Cambay, I find it does not extend to any positive engagement of protection, but as that city falling into the

hands of this Govert must be in some measure obnoxious both to our political and commercial interests, I shall as far as prudence will permit, traverse the intrigues that are machinating to that end

The Minister has at length assured me that the person lately arrived here as reported with letters for the Peshwa from Tipoo has only brought a letter and Keellat for Mahdarou Furkia, Huirypunt's son, now employed against Colaba so that delivery of them and the object of the bearer must remain unknown as the Minister observes till Mahdarou's return

**No. 230.**—Malet writes to the G. G. an account of the happenings at Poona, relating to the Peshwa and Sindia.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

*Poona, 2 May 1794.*

My last address was dated the 21st ultimo since which I have heard nothing more of the Peshwa's intention to enter his tents, tho' the report of Doulut Rou's visit to the temple of Jote Ling with a light party is again become current, and it is confidently said that he will march the 9 of Shawal about the 7th instant

I have the honor to enclose a letter from that chieftain in answer to your letter of condolence on the death of the late M Sindia whose son-in-law Larrojee Deysmook has also departed this life within these few days

It having been intimated to me through a channel of *credibility* that Major Palmer has left Calcutta and he proposes having a meeting with Gopal Bhou the principal officer of the Sindea family in Hindostan and brother of Abba Chitnees, the Minister who has the chief management of affairs here, I think it necessary to acquaint you for the regulation of that gentleman's conduct that Abba Chitnees is supposed to have formed a close connexion with Ballajee Punt Nanna Furnaveese, the principal Minister of this State, by which it is conjectured he will be necessarily drawn under the influence of this Court in the management of his master's affairs to insure to himself its powerful support against Bhou Bucshy, soon expected here and the Sinoee Party of which he is the head.

On the occasion of a wedding in the family of Abba Chitnees I have lately received a civil advance to a friendly intercourse by an invitation to the ceremony of which and of every other opportunity I shall take due advantage to propagate an idea of our cordiality toward the Govert, and person of the young chieftain agreeable to the tenor of your instructions of the 21st March.

Hurry Punt Furkia is again gone to Sedda Teyk in pursuit of health having found himself in a very declining way here.

The insurgent Doanje Waug still continues to keep this Govert's frontier in a state of disquietude tho' Purasaram Bhou's elder son was detached after the accommodation of Colapore to assist the force previously employed in his reduction. Hostilities are still carrying on against Angria, with no other object it should seem than of harassing the chief of that family to an implicit submission to the Peshwa's will.

It has been mentioned to me that the Peshwa having on the plea of an inauspicious aspect of the heavenly bodies declined acceptance of the Nazim's invitation to his son's nuptials, His Hss. in the true style of Asiatic compliment has signified his intention of deferring their solemnization till the season shall be propitious to the Peshwa's attendance, without which his son's wedding cannot be felicitous

No. 231.—News is reported by Malet to the G. G. regarding the movements of Sindia and other happenings at the Court of Poona.

FROM—C. W MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE.

*Poona, 9 May 1794.*

My last address was dated the 2nd instant and on the 6 I had the honor to receive your commands of the 7th and 14th ulto. with those accompanying them for the Peshwa and Doulut Rou, whose receipt has been intimated to them with a request that a time of their delivery may be appointed, adding in my message to Doulut Rou S's ministers my idea that this first public act of their master's Govert, with your administration should be conducted in such a manner as to impress the other powers of Hindostan with the mutual respect and cordiality of the parties agreeable to the tenor of your inclinations on that head with the friendly object of giving weight to the commencement of the power of this young chieftain, which power, circumstances induce me to apprehend, will scarce ever attain the consistency of his predecessor.\*

The visit to Joti Ling has been lately strongly urged as a plea for drawing from the Durbar the investiture of the Sicca Kattar etc., insignia, which I had long since the honour to inform you, were reserved by the Durbar and these requisitions were accompanied with assurances that, should the Durbar be desirous of Doulut Rou's remaining in the Deccan till the settlement of the present discussions with the Nazim, he would on his

\* This prediction of Malet proved too true.

return from Joti Ling await the orders of the Peshwa at his town of Jamgaum about 28 cos hence

Compliance with these instances has been waived on the pleas that the season is yet inauspicious for the investiture and that D R's departure for Hindostan where every thing is tranquil, will be inexpedient until the Cucar's disputes with the Nazim are settled, in the course of which the additional desirable circumstance may occur of a meeting with Tukoji Holcar and the Bhosla whose attendance has been commanded

This reply has checked the preparations which have lately been making in D. R's camp for marching; in the interim Bhou Bucsby has arrived whose presence will not I fear add to the unanimity or vigor of his master's councils, the necessity of which, however, I shall not fail to mention, should a favourable opportunity present, nor shall I omit encouraging any expressions of a desire for the reestablishment of Major P.'s ministry\* by which the desirable point of a dignified option will be gained, though I think it probable that you will have received some advances on this head through Gopal Bhou previous to the receipt of their address.

The enclosed copy of my address to the Resident at Hyderabad will convey to you the mode in which I mean to subject any new suggestions from Captain Kirkpatrick to execute your late instructions relative to interposition in the differences between this Court and that of Hyderabad, which I trust you will find perfectly conformable to your instructions on the delicate point of giving every possible support to the Nazim consistent with equity without serious commitment of our honor or interests in the issue, in the course of which I shall not fail to make the best use of the arguments that you have done me the honor to suggest, particularly that of our conduct on the Nazim's advance to Bider.

As I shall not be able to prepare copies of the papers that have passed between me and the B'bay Govt. on the subject of Cambay previous to my departure for Ellora (as mentioned in the accompg. copy of my letter to Capt K.) I have desired my assist Mr. Unthoff to transmit them as early as possible who will without loss of time collect and furnish you with the other intelligence required on that subject.

Nothing further has passed on the subject of Dounjee Waug taking shelter in Tippto's country; on the contrary I hear he has lately been very roughly handled by the force under P. Bhou's son I shall make the proper use of your reasoning should anything further occur regarding him and Tippto

Rest assured, Hon'ble Sir, that no opportunity of introducing the smallest prospect with effect to the exchange or dereliction of the Surat Choute shall be neglected I am however well convinced that your doubts

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\* With reference to Major Palmer's appointment as Resident.



of success are perfectly reasonable, and I am concerned to add that some hopes which I had flattered myself with of a more fortunate issue from the Guykwar family, have been much damped by late letters from Broda mentioning that Govinrow's power is not yet firmly established and that the influence of Rouba the Minister who extricated him from all his difficulties here, has been greatly injured by the opportunity given to others of supplanting him when on his master's marching hence he staid *behind to settle some of his affairs*

**No. 232.**—Malet cordially accepts the lines of policy communicated to him by the G. G. and proposes to start on a journey to see the Ellora caves.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE.

*Poona, 9 May 1794.*

Accept my best acknowledgments for the honor of your very kind letter of the 11th ultimo and its enclosures full of the most interesting and the most useful information as exhibiting in one view a clear statement of the principles by which your administration will be regulated in your intercourse with foreign nations, principles which as they are founded on the *solid base of universal equity and benevolence and supported by the energy and vigor of your domestic Government* will, I doubt not, be equally honourable and successful. Be assured, my Dear Sir, that it will ever be equally an object of my duty and ambition to minister to the prosperity of such a system. It is a matter of peculiar satisfaction to me to collect from the delineation of your sentiments that while actuated yourself by the purest motive of policy and philanthropy, you can with a clear eye penetrate and with a sound judgment provide against the more exceptionable and more dangerous policies of others, which certainly merit the most vigilant and circumspect attention of our mild and pacific Government. You may recollect two letters written to me by Sir John Kennaway under the 26th and 27th December containing a good deal of political matter on some points in which we had differed a little in opinion, to which from my desire of avoiding trouble to Government in matters that appeared to me already fully understood, and in which my persuasion has received the sanction of your decision on the principal point of defensive engagement, I confined myself to a very slight reply in my address to you of, I believe, the 6th January last, reserving the long answer that I had prepared to Sir John's letter. But as that answer and a supplementary paper written at the same time contain some matters of a general and particular nature that however erroneous, may not be useless in drawing your attention to possible contingencies, I have thought

proper in the exercise of that confidence with which you have been pleased to honour me, as well as in obedience to your commands to be freely furnished with my sentiments, to transmit them to you, but as I am doubtful of being able to prepare them for this post will desire Mr. Uthhoff to forward them by the next, as by my public letter you will perceive my intention of benefiting by your kind permission to set out before the next post day on my visit to the caves of Ellora, for which I have been furnished with the requisite passport and recommendations by Captain Kirkpatrick from his Court, and on my signifying my intention to this Court, it was immediately assented to with every polite offer of an escort of horse and foot and the attendance of a carkoon to insure me at every place that I might wish to see an hospitable reception, for which I shall thank the Peishwa in person at a visit that I am to make him this evening to present your letter mentioned in my public address. No day is yet fixed for the presentment of that to Doulut Row. Complimentary messages have passed between Bhow Bucksy and me, but I apprehend a meeting will scarce be practicable before my departure as I understand that he is deeply engaged in some religious ceremonies.

I yesterday had the pleasure (by an accidental despatch from Captain Kirkpatrick) to learn the arrival of the *Deomede* at Madras, but I am much concerned that neither by previous extra Dawk dispatched to the Government of Bombay with the important intelligence brought by this ship, nor by subsequent ordinary post have I been favoured with a line from Sir Charles Oakley. Permit me therefore to suggest from the obvious expediency of my being furnished with the earliest intelligence of any kind that relates to our general or particular politics either here or in Europe that the wish of your predecessor formerly signified to the Governors of Madras and Bombay on that subject to enable me to keep up the credit of my information here, may be repeated. I have likewise to lament not having received a line relative to Captain Doveton's missions from the Madras Government since his departure from that presidency.

It was with the utmost reluctance that I lately yielded to the necessity of troubling you on a point of disagreement which tho' ostensibly with the Bombay Board I am sorry to say is to be entirely attributed to the perverseness of one of its members

Should you think any part of the papers abovementioned when they fall under your inspection worthy the notice of Captain Kirkpatrick either as requisite to his information or to clear up any doubtful matters of opinion, I shall have no objection (on receiving your wishes so to do) to furnish him with a copy on the same confidential footing on which they have been submitted to your perusal. The circumstance of Aazim-al-Omra's intrigues to keep back the Marratta army under Huiry Punt thereby to derive the greater merit to his master in the equipment of Tedge Wunt, is so extraordinary an instance of political vice as to be

intelligible only by reference to my correspondence with Sir John Kennaway at the time, when the extreme embarrassment and vexation to which I was reduced by it will be fully understood, but this is now become luckily rather a matter of curiosity and reflection to those at leisure than of necessary attention to men of business.

I am just returned from presenting your letter to the Peishwa when I took the opportunity of taking my leave, on my journey to Ellora. I accompanied the delivery of your letter with the requisite expressions of your good opinion of the conduct of the Durbar in its admission and confirmation of the succession of Dowlut Raw which were very well received.

P S.—I have just received the enclosed passport for Lt Mechie which however will not I presume be necessary from the letters already sent to Ally Bhadui, etc.

**No. 233.**—Malet informs the Governor of Bombay that he would be absent for a month from duty on a visit to the Ellora caves and that his assistant Uthoff would attend to all work that may be urgent.

FROM—C. W MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR IN CO., BOMBAY.

*Poona, 10th May 1794.*

As I propose setting out tomorrow on an excursion that may cause my absence from hence about a month I have instructed my assistant Mr Uthoff to keep you duly informed of anything requisite for your notice and to pay every attention to the commands you may have occasion to transmit.

**No. 234.**—Uthoff reports to Governor General that Daulatrao Sindia was fully invested with the insignia of Naib Vakil-i-Mutlak and that the office of his Fadnis was conferred on Nana.

FROM—J. UTHOFF, ASSISTANT RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE

*Poona, 12th May 1794*

Agreeable to Sir Charles Malet's last address to you of the 9th instant, he set off on his journey to Ellora early in the morning of the 11th.

On the 10th instant Doulut Rou Sindia was formally invested by the Peshwa with the Sicca, Kutrar, etc, insignia of delegation that had been enjoyed by his late adoptive father Mhadjee Sindia, but which were withheld at the time of his being invested with the other insignia successfully on the plea of the season being inauspicious, but more probably for the purpose of affording leisure and opportunity to the Durbar to arrange the affairs of Doulut Rou in a manner conformably to their own views and wishes

At the same time the Prime Minister of this State Bullajee Jurardun Nanna Furnaveese was formally invested by the Peshwa with the Office of Furnaveese on the part of the Sirkar to Doulut Row. Nanna held this office nominally with the late Mhadjee Sindea, but the business was conducted by a deputy and without any essential influence in the affairs of the late Patill. From the material change that has taken place in the affairs of the Sindea Family by the death of the Patell, it is conjectured that the Office of Furnaveese, will now be made subservient to the views of the State.

On the return of Doulut Row Sindia to his tents he ordered a salute to be fired, and received the Nuzzers and compliments of his ministers, officers and other dependants, in celebration of the investiture, which was also announced by letter to all his officers at a distance.

The necessary insignia of succession on the part of the King have, I understand, been prepared at Delhy for Doulut Row, but are not yet arrived here.

Doulut Row Sindea is now fully acknowledged and invested as the successor to his late adoptive father, as well by this State as by the King

On the 10th instant the Office of Dewan was conferred by Doulut Row on Bhow Bucshy, who held the same office under the late Mhadjee Sindea. It is considered, I understand, as the first office in rank under the Sindea family, but the genius of the late Patell preserved at his pleasure an equipoise of authority among his ministers and officers, and for some years past Bhow Bucshy has not enjoyed much influence, and he will now have a very powerful competitor in Abba Chittnavese, supported by the ministers and officers who have of late years had the management of affairs about the person of the late Patell, and since his death with Doulut Row.

The excursion as well to Jote Ling as to Jamgaum seems now to be laid aside. It appears to be the object of the Durbar to keep Doulut Row here for the present, which it is thought will be more favourable to the Brahmin interest, than by his dispatch to Hindostan, in which quarter the Sindea's interest is predominant as well in military commanders as in wealth, and might perhaps acquire an ascendancy with Doulut Row.

Agreeable to Sir Charles Malet's directions, I shall take the earliest favourable opportunity to deliver your letter to Doulut Row Sindea, with the requisite congratulations and professions of friendship, as directed in your letter to Sir Charles Malet of the 7th ultimo

**No. 235.**—Uththoff informs the Governor of Madras of the despatch of elephants to Poona from Travancore with Subrao. The animals had been ordered by Mahadji Sindia.

FROM—J. UTHTHOFF,

TO—SIR CHARLES OAKLEY, GOVERNOR, FORT ST. GEORGE

*Poona, 16th May 1794.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Secretary Jackson's letter to Sir Charles Malet of the 10th ultimo with its several accompaniments on the subject of the claim of the prize agents of the army for supplies furnished to the Marrattas during the late war, the contents of which have been communicated to the Durbar and referred by them to Hurry Punt through whom the transaction in question took place, who is at present at Sidda Teyk about 25 coss hence for the benefit of his health, and from whom an answer has not yet been received

A few days ago arrived here a person named Soobrau charged with a letter from Ram Rajah of Travancore in answer to one from the late Mhadjee Sindea, who, it seems, some time since had sent a person into the Travancore country to procure elephants. The Rajah, in his answer, mentions that never having before had any communication with Sindea, he was at first in doubt as to the authenticity of his letter, but that as having at length satisfied himself on that head, the elephants will be immediately dispatched. Soobrau has delivered his dispatches to Doulut Rou Sindea, without any communication whatever with this Residency, and I have not yet learnt by what route the elephants are coming.

Doulut Rou Sindea has been fully acknowledged and invested by the Peshwa as the successor to his late adoptive father Mhadjee Sindea, and the requisite insignia of acknowledgement and succession, on the part of the King, have, I understand, been prepared at Delhi for Doulut Rou, and are now on their way hither. It can however hardly be expected that the very complicated and important affairs that have been so long under the able management of the late Mhadjee Sindea, should continue to be conducted in the same manner under Doulut Rou, who is but fourteen or fifteen years of age,\* and who in all probability does not inherit the abilities of his predecessor.

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\* Daulatrao Sindia should thus have been born in 1779

No. 236.—Uththoff reports to the G. G. preparations for an entertainment to be given to the Peshwa by Daulatrao and the illness of Malet on his journey to Ellora.

FROM—J UTHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE.

*Poona, 30th May 1794*

I had last the honour to address you under date the 23rd instant

On learning the demur that had arisen in preparing an answer to your last letter to Doulut Row Sindea, I gave him no reason to expect that Sir Charles Malet had any particular verbal communications to make to him on your part, observing that the reference to Sir Charles Malet in your letter was conformable to custom. I was not, however, pressing in requiring an early answer to your letter, hoping that the delay might afford some opening for introducing an advance from Doulut Row for the continuance of a Resident on your part with him. Your instructions, however, of the 7th ultimo to Sir Charles Malet did not appear to warrant the introduction of the subject by me, in which construction of your orders I am confirmed by the opinion of Sir Charles Malet.

Without anything further having passed on the subject, I received on the 17th instant Doulut Row's answer to your letter, which I have now the honour to enclose, and in which you will observe that Doulut Row has made use of the new seal lately granted to him by the Peshwa, as advised in my address of the 12th instant.

It has been some days in agitation by Doulut Row to give a grand entertainment to the Peshwa and his Court which is to take place this afternoon. The expenses on the occasion are expected to amount to three or four lacs of Rupees, which from the distresses of Doulut Row for ready cash, it is said will be defrayed by contributions among some of his principal ministers and chiefs. It is a pretty strong trait though rather a strange one of the relative situation of the Peshwa and Doulut Row, and the ascendancy that the former has already acquired in the affairs of the Sindea family since the death of Patell, that one of the conditions on which he condescends to accept this entertainment, should be, that he is to be presented with a particular valuable set of jewels that the Patell was accustomed to wear on grand occasions, and another that he is to have the selection of three horses from Sindea's stud, both which points have been I understand conceded.

My last letter from Sir Charles Malet is dated the evening of the 26th instant, from Roza near Aurungabad. He was at that time pretty well; and indeed the first accounts that we had heard of his indisposition as mentioned in my letter to Captain Kirkpatrick of the 26th instant, were through an indirect channel, and proved to have been exaggerated. He

had had two or three slight attacks of intermittent fever, but had reason to think on the evening of the 26th that he should have no return of it. Dr. Crusœ who had set off the 26th instant, to afford Sir C. Malet such medical assistance as he might require, returned hither the next day, having met on the road such favorable accounts of Sir Charles Malet's health as to render his journey inexpedient, particularly as he was himself unwell, and there were many here in a similar predicament this season of the year being at all times very sickly.

**No. 237.**—Uththoff writes that Malet is still unwell, that letters have been received by the Peshwa from Tipu and that Hari Pant Phadke had died.

FROM—UHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

*Poona, 20th June 1794.*

It is with much concern I have to acquaint you that Sir Charles Malet continues too unwell to attend to business. He has in consequence directed me to communicate to you what has occurred in this quarter since his last dispatch of the 13th instant.

Behroo Pundit yesterday communicated by the Minister's directions that a letter had just been received by the Peshwa from Tippoo, mentioning, in terms of great respect and obligation towards you, the return of his hostage sons, accompanied by a person of consequence (Captain Doveton) on your part, which circumstance, as well as the mode in which it had been conducted, had given him (Tippoo) much satisfaction.

Behroo Pundit mentioned, at the same time, that the letter which had been received here about two months ago from Tippoo (and already noticed to you by Sir Charles Malet) was for Mhadoo Rou Furkia, one of Hurry Punt's sons, in answer to a letter that had been written some time before, urging the payment of the Kists. Tippoo also acknowledged the receipt of a letter that had been written on the part of the Peshwa, in favour of a Brahmin of some consequence who was proceeding to pay his devotions at a pagoda in or near Syringputtam. Tippoo observed, that he had been treated with every requisite attention, and that he had been made very happy by the professions of friendship that the Brahmin had made to him in person, on the part of the Peshwa.

The dissensions among the Ministers of the late Patell appear to increase, and with them, the ascendancy of this Court over the Sindea's affairs, in which its support is shown to the party of Abba Chitnaveese.

It is mentioned with some confidence, that Govind Rou Guykewar has at length made his public entry into his capital Broda, and <sup>to</sup> his residence in that city.

Hurry Punt was some days ago reported to be dangerously ill, but is now said to be somewhat better.

*P.S.*—I this instant learn that Hurry Punt Furkia died yesterday afternoon at Sidda Teyk.

No. 238.—*Uththoff writing to the G. G. mentions the dissensions among the ministers of Daulatrao and the contemplated release of Bajirao and Moroba Fadnis.*

FROM—J. UTHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, DART

*Poona, 27th June 1794.*

I have the honour to acquaint you that since my last address of the 23rd instant, Sir Charles Malet is somewhat better, though still too unwell to write

The dissensions among the ministers of Doulut Row' Sindea have proceeded to such an extremity that Abba Chitnaveese absented himself from the Durbar for ten or twelve days, during which period Nanna took a decided part in his favor. An accommodation was concerted, and Doulut Row went in person to solicit the return of Abba Chitnaveese to his management of affairs, in which, however, it was understood, and indeed expressed, that he was to act in concert with the Sinoee ministers

As a counterbalance to this apparent concession to the Brahmin interest in the ministry, Doulut Rao has also in person solicited the return of Baloba Tatya who is attached to the Sinoee Party and whose attendance at the Durbar had been prohibited on account of his having attempted to instigate Doulut Rou to the prejudice of Abba Chitnaveese. In the Patell's lifetime he appears to have been a person of but little consequence, and indeed is still the same, except in the light of a tool of the Sinoee party

A general reconciliation is professed to have now taken place, which is to be confirmed by a new oath on the spot where the corpse of the late Patell was burnt.

The weakness of the Sindea's councils and the ascendancy of the Peshwa since the Patell's death (which happened not five months ago) are already self-evident.

The Durbar has not yet made any communication to the Resident on the subject of its difference with the Court of Hyderabad

Persons of consequence have been dispatched on the part of the Peshwa and Doulut Rao and other personages here to Sidda Teyk to condole with the sons of Hurry Punt Furkia on their father's death; and Sir Charles Malet has given a similar commission to his Munshy.



Exclusive of Ragojee Bhonsla, Tookojee Holkar, and Palsaram Bhow, whose attendance is said to have been required by the Durbar, it is again rumoured that the restraint in which Moroba Furnaveese and Baajy Rao, the son of the late Ragonaut Row, are now kept, will be taken off and that they will be employed in public affairs

Sir Charles Malet has not received from the Bombay Government any official account of the Europe intelligence by the late dispatch from Great Britain.

**No. 239.**—Palmer is asked to join Daulatrao as Resident when the latter goes to the north

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER.

*Fort William, 30th June 1794*

Enclosed I send you a translation of a letter from Dowlut Row Sindia, and as he has expressly signified his wishes for the continuance of the Residency, I have only to desire that you will place yourself in the situation best calculated for meeting Dowlut Row on his return to Hindostan. It can be scarcely necessary to signify any intimation that it is the wish and intention of this Government to cultivate the same good understanding with Dowlut Row that subsisted with his predecessor Mahajee Scindia, and I have expressed the same sentiments in my reply to Dowlut Row.

**No. 240.**—Shore informs Daulatrao of his having instructed Palmer to join him in north India.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—DOWLAT ROW SINDIA.

*Calcutta, 3rd July 1794.*

I am highly gratified by the receipt of your letter (recapitulating that received 26th June 1794) After congratulations on his having received the Sicra Kuttar, what you write respecting your solicitude to augment the attachment that exists between us, could not but afford me great satisfaction. It being equally the desire of this Government as it is yours to maintain the same connection between the two states that subsisted so cordially with the late Maharajah, I have no hesitation to comply with your request that Major Palmer may be directed to resume the station he held with the late Maharajah, and I am pleased to see this proof of the union and regard you have professed towards the Company's Government. I have accordingly instructed Major Palmer to be in readiness to meet you on your arrival at Hindostan.

I have no doubt but that you will place in Major Palmer the same degree of confidence that the late Maharajah did and freely communicate with him upon everything that can tend to increase the mutual welfare and amiable connection of the two states

As I place the most implicit dependance on Major Palmer's abilities, experience and integrity, I request you will consider whatever he may impart or advise as coming immediately from myself

**No. 241.**—Malet thanks the Govr. of Bombay and suggests the appointment of Findley in the place of Crusoe who was retiring.

FROM—J URTHOFF,

TO—GEORGE DICK, GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, BOMBAY.

*Poona, 8 July 1794.*

Sir Charles Malet continuing too unwell to attend to public business has directed me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to him of the 5th instant, and in reply thereto, to present his thanks for such a liberal instance of attention to the harmony of a society so peculiarly circumstanced as that of this Residency. He at the same time requests, that should it be agreeable to Mr. Findlay (which he has some reason to think it will be) that gentleman may be appointed to succeed Mr. Crusoe as Surgeon here

**No. 242.**—Malet communicates to the G G his intention of making presents to Nana and Bahupant and of securing the transfer of the Chauth of Surat and Cambay. The Poona Darbar is mentioned as having made a contribution towards the expenses of the Residency

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—EDWARD HAY, SECRETARY, FORT WILLIAM.

*Poona, 19 July 1794.*

I have the honour to enclose the subsidy accounts of the Bombay Detachment acting with the Marhatta army under Pursaram Bhow during the late war against Tippoo Sultaun. The accounts would have been forwarded as soon as the payments by the Darbar had been completed (which you will observe was not till the month of May last), but that I was at that time absent from Poona, and they have been since delayed by my indisposition.

Government has been already advised that I have appropriated part of the money received from the Durbar on account of the subsidy to the expenses of this Residency, and I hold myself responsible to the Hon'ble Company for the balance which amounted on the 30th of last month to Rs 78,897-2-11.

I was long ago authorized by Marquis Cornwallis to appropriate the balance of the subsidy account as a present to Behroo Pundit and the latitude granted by his Lordship has been since confirmed by the present Governor General, for which a favourable opportunity has not yet occurred; but it is my present intention to make a handsome present to Behroo Pundit on the approaching occasion of an entertainment to the Peshwa and his Court on the delivery of Ragoba's jewels, and I may perhaps take the same opportunity for making a present to the minister Nanna Funnaveese. I shall not fail to avail myself of converting the occasion of the presents if possible to the attainment of our present grand object of an accommodation between the courts of Poona and Hyderabad, or to render it in some other respect of some service to the Company.

Before the arrival or delivery of Ragoba's jewels sufficient time will in all probability elapse to enable me to receive an answer to this letter, and therewith any suggestions that the Governor General in Council may think proper to furnish for my guidance in the execution of my intentions.

Permit me also to solicit the honor of the sentiments of the Governor General in Council as to the eligibility of the transfer of a village in Jagheer to the Minister Nana Funnaveese in the Province of Benares, if thereby the transfer to the Company of the Peshwa's share of Chout in the cities of Surat and Cambay or in either of them, can be effected. The importance of this object to us has been already fully explained in the course of my correspondence, and I have been authorized both by the present and the late Governor General to endeavour to effect it. My correspondence will likewise have shown that the present of a village in the Province of Benares will in all probability be highly acceptable to Nanna; and that in addition to the sentiments with which this Court may be expected to be impressed for the liberal and magnificent present of Ragoba's jewels, it may perhaps weigh in the attainment of the transfer to the Company of the Peshwa's share of Chout in the cities of Surat and Cambay.

It must, however, be acknowledged, that from the tenaciousness with which the Marhattas maintain and endeavour to convert to their own interested purposes, every inlet for the admission of their power and influence, and from the genius both of the state and individuals so little susceptible of liberal impressions while excessively susceptible of jealousy with respect to us, there is great room for doubt of success in this or any other object of ours, the attainment of which by us is at the option of the Marhattas.

**No. 243.**—Malet communicates to the G. G. some items of news from the Poona Court, the despatch of Subrao the Agent of Travancore from Poona and the reappointment of Palmer being the two important ones.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVR. GENL.

*Poona, 12 August 1794.*

As mentioned in my last respects of the 10th I have now the honor to transmit the substance of this Court's answer to my last message, tho' having in a confidential manner recommended Bcheropant to submit it to the minister's reperusal with sundry remarks that I have suggested to accompany it, I am not without hopes of its undergoing some alteration, so that I may request you to suspend your judgment on the present enclosures.

It has been officially signified to me by the Durbar that letters have been received from the Nabob Tippoo Sultan advising the approaching nuptials of his two sons lately returned from Madras and inviting in the usual complimentary way the Peshwa to grace the solemnity with his presence.

Soobrav the person who Mr Uthoff long ago advised you had arrived here in a character of some agency from the Ram Raja\* to D Sindia, has received his despatches within these few days with letters and presents for his master, the latter consisting of jewels, a horse and clothes for the Raja and jewels and clothes for his son.

It should seem that this person has been entrusted with something more than the complimentary letters from Ram Raja if it be true as I am credibly informed it is, that he brought a present for Sindia of 11,000 Ashirufes. I am also assured that an annual salary of 8,800 Rupees has been granted to Soobrav by Sindia. I understand letters have been given him to Mahomed Ally Khan and the Governor of Madras to prevent impediment or exaction of imposts throughout their districts. I shall give the Governor of Madras advice of these circumstances.

Having had no instructions on the subject, I have taken no notice to this Court of Major Palmer's reappointment to the Residency at the Sindia's Durbar, and in the event of your thinking it proper that either asked or unasked I should make any communication to the Durbar on the subject, you will probably deem it necessary that I should be furnished with a copy of the Major's instructions, being at present unacquainted with the intended movements of that gentleman or in what station he means to recommence the discharge of his functions with the new chief; but as from Gopal Bhou's movement to the north I think it probable

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\* Of Travancore See No 235 above

that the Major may have some intercourse with him, permit me to repeat what I had formerly the honor to suggest, that the great intimacy of Abba, Gopal's brother, with the Minister here seems to require that great caution and delicacy should be observed in all intercourse with Gopal on the political relations of our Government with this and the Sindian Darbars

**No. 244.**—Lord Hobart intimates to the Peshwa his appointment as Governor of Madras.

**FROM—LORD HOBART, GOVERNOR, MADRAS,**

**TO—THE PESHWA.**

*Fort St. George, 9 September 1794.*

I take the earliest opportunity of informing you of my arrival at Fort St. George and of my having taken charge of this Government according to the appointment of the Honourable East India Company and the approbation of his Majesty the King of Great Britain.

It will afford me the highest satisfaction to cultivate the friendship which at present so happily subsists between your Circar and the Honourable Company and you may rest assured that you will always find me disposed to adopt such measures as may tend to so desirable a purpose

May your happiness and prosperity daily increase. What can I say more

**No 245.**—Malet sends to the Court of Directors a concise report on the state of political affairs at the Court of Poona, mentioning among other topics the tension between the Peshwa and the Nizam.

**FROM—CHARLES MALET,**

**TO—THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS, LONDON**

*Poona, 16 September 1794.*

Having learnt through a private channel that there is a probability of a vessel being dispatched shortly to Bussora from Bombay, I shall endeavour to avail myself of it to give you a concise sketch of the state of affairs in this quarter since my last address of the 10th March

The long existing differences between the Courts of Hyderabad and Poona arising chiefly from the Maratta claims on the Nawaub's country, are at length coming to a crisis, for the settlement of which the Nawaub has deputed Meer Allum to this Court, who arrived here the 26th of July

last Little progress has yet been made in the negotiation from the preliminary point of Meer Allum's powers having occasioned discussion and reference, but that point is now settled, and this Court in its last official declaration on the subject dated the 4th instant, has assured me "That if an equitable adjustment is made for the past, and an arrangement for the future, hostilities are not absolutely intended. It is to be hoped that the affair will terminate amicably."

Military preparations, however, caused by the above differences, have been some time on foot here, and among other warlike appearances Raghojee Bhonsla, Tookoojee Holkar, and Purseram Bhow, have been summoned to attend the Peshwa with their quotas of troops; but in a state so peculiarly constituted as that of the Marattas, many obstacles are likely to occur in prevention of the assembling of so large a force as is summoned, and in the interim it is to be hoped that the existing differences may be settled by negotiation; to which the Nawaub professes himself well disposed and Nizam Ally Khan is still with his Court at Bidder.

Though Doulut Row Sindea has been fully invested with the insignia of succession to his late adoptive father Mhadjee Sindea, the affairs of that family have fallen into considerable confusion, and the Poona Court has acquired ascendancy over them. Dissensions among the ministers of the young Chief have proceeded to the extremity of occasioning Abba Chitnavees who was the principal Minister during the lifetime of the late Patell, and continued so with Doulut Row, to withdraw from the Ministry. Doulut Row is still here, and a body of his forces have been sent for from Hindoostan to be employed against Nizam Ally Khan, should the present differences terminate in hostilities.

Doulut Row having expressed a desire for the continuance of a Resident on our part with him, Major Palmer has been reappointed to the station that he held with the late Patell.

The negotiation for a more formal and explicit treaty of Guarantee between the powers constituting the late Triple alliance against Tippoo Sultaun has of late lain dormant. The engagements, however, on that head, contracted by the treaties of Poona, Paungal, and Syringputtum, remain in full force.

Nothing material has passed relative to Tippoo Sultaun since the release of his hostage sons. Some territorial points, originating in the treaty of Syringputtum, remain still to be settled between him and Nizam Ally Khan.

The magnificent present of Ragoba's jewels intended for the Peshwa was, by the late accounts, still at Banares under the charge of Lieut. Michie waiting for an escort from the Maratta officers in that quarter.

An accommodation has taken place between the Peshwa and the Rajas of Colapoor and Colabba ; and the disturbances created by Donajoe Waug and the Dessaye of Kittoor have been quelled.

Hurry Punt Furkia died at Sidda Teyk, about 32 cos hence, on the 19th of June last.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that I continued to receive from this Court the most friendly professions toward's the Hon'ble Company's Government

**No. 246.**— Malet requests the Resident at Benares to show attention to the Peshwa's grandmother in her pilgrimage to Gya.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE RESIDENT, BENARES.

*Poona, 1st October 1794*

I have been duly favored with your letter of the 24th July covering one from the Peshwa's grand-mother\* which I caused to be immediately delivered, but tho' I have frequently repeated my application for an answer, it was not furnished me till this day when it was accompanied with a request that I would recommend the lady to the same kind treatment in her visit to Ghya which she has experienced at your hands and which has been very thankfully acknowledged to me by the Peshwa, whence I drew occasion to observe that he, the Peshwa, might rest assured the same disposition which had ensured his grand-mother so agreeable a reception at Benares would operate in her treatment at Ghya.

**No. 247.**— Malet informs the G. G. of the construction of a bridge at Benares which Nana had undertaken. He also defends himself against the censure that had been passed on him. See no. 367.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE.

*Poona, 3 November 1794.*

Nothing occurs of sufficient consequence to trouble you with in addition to my official dispatch of this date relative to the discussions between this

\* The Peshwa's mother's mother surnamed Sathe. See no. 249

Court and that of Bidder. Various reports are circulated regarding the force of this State in Bundelcund. I am anxious to know the true state of the case as I am sure the event cannot be uninteresting to our officers. I have been told but scarce know how to believe it, that Nanna is constructing a bridge over the Carumnassa, if so and the nature of the situation at all justifies the idea, I should not be surprised if the design was more extensive than merely the preservation of devotees from the pollution of its waters who have managed pretty well to avoid it from the beginning of time. It is at the same time to be recollected that even an additional ferry boat is not suffered to be established between the dependencies of Bombay and this country. The Bundelas have an agent here who has been somewhat more attended to since the late intelligence from that quarter than formerly.

Permit me, Dear Sir, to remind you of the request of my letter of 15th June and should you in compliance with it think proper to palliate the severity of the former censure by only saying, that tho' sensible of my grievances and just cause of complaint, yet you could not help expressing your concern that my warmth had led me into a greater freedom of expression than perhaps on cool reflection I should have adopted, it would be exactly correspondent with not only your sentiment but those of the Board as signified in your favor of the 9th July and furnish me an opportunity of making such a reply as might at once relieve my feelings from the distress of the former censure and enable me to place my real disposition not to transgress the bounds of respect due to Government in a proper light of which, believe me, few have an higher sense than Dear Sir, your &c

**No. 248.**—Lord Hobart, Governor of Madras, acknowledges receipt of Malet's letter and thanks him for it.

FROM—GOVERNOR OF MADRAS,

TO—CHARLES MALET.

*Fort St. George, November 4th 1794.*

I am really ashamed of having been so long without acknowledging the receipt of your private letter of congratulations upon my accession to the Government of Fort St. George, but I trust you will impute it to the true cause, a pressure of most urgent business. The respect I entertain for your character and abilities makes me the more anxious upon this subject, and I am particularly desirous to avail myself of the opening you have



afforded me to request you would occasionally write to me upon the subject of the business transaction at the Court of Poonah.

I am aware that it is of considerable importance at this time especially, and I should be happy if you would do me the honour of a frequent communication respecting it.

I do not write European news because the last we had was from Bombay, and of course you must have been in possession of it long before we were. I cannot, however, forego the satisfaction of congratulating you upon it.

**No. 249.**—The G. G. expresses his gratification for the satisfactory accomplishment of pilgrimage by the Peshwa's grandmother to Gya.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—THE PEISHWAH'S GRAND MOTHER DURGABAI ALIAS TAI SATHE.

*Calcutta, 11th November 1794*

I have had the pleasure to receive your favor (recapitulate the letter received 22nd October).

I am very happy to hear that you have (as it was my particular wish you should) performed the pilgrimage of Gya and Benares with satisfaction to yourself and it affords me great pleasure that you have found it convenient to reside so long in the Company's territory. Altho' I am sure you have found Mr. Duncan unremitting in his attention towards you and solicitous to facilitate the farther objects of your pilgrimage and tho' from the intimate connection subsisting between the Vizier's and this Government, His Excellency would as readily contribute to that end, yet agreeably to your request, the necessary letters will be written

I cannot omit this opportunity to express the sense I entertain of the attentions you have shown to preserve order and quietness between your followers and the inhabitants of the country, so as to prevent the occurrence of any disturbances during your residence in the British territories, a conduct so attentive and friendly towards this Government and so conformable to the attachment subsisting between the Peishwah's and the Company's State, while it renders me solicitous to show you every mark of attention in return, demands and has my best acknowledgment and thanks.

**No. 250.**—Capt. Doveton sends news to Malet from Tipu's Court about the activities of his troops contemplating to assist the Marathas against Nizam and possibly against the English. In opposing the Nizam, Nana was seriously planning to put down the rising arms of the British power suggests the writer.

FROM—CAPT DOVETON, RESIDENT WITH TIPU SULTAN,  
TO—CHARLES MALET

*Rycottah, 13th November 1794.*

About six weeks ago a Vackeel from Poona arrived at the Court of Tippoo Sultaun. The vackeel is still at Seringpatam, and has had frequent conferences with Tippoo. It is the general opinion of the Durbar (Tippoo) that the Sultaun has listened to the overtures made to him by the Marattas of co-operating in any contest which may arise between them and the Nizam. Another vackeel, however, is expected shortly from Poonah with final answers, it is said, to such propositions as Tippoo has on his part made, and upon the arrival of this latter vackeel it will probably appear what are the real designs of Tippoo, whether he will decline interference or take part in any contest or dispute which has arisen or may eventually arise between the two powers in question. In the meantime however preparations are making at Seringpatam, and it is given out that the northern refractory Polygars are the objects of such preparations.

In conformity to this Baber—Jung a principal Sirdar and one of the best soldiers in Tippoo's service, was detached about a month ago towards Annagoondy and the Northern frontiers with a small army of 2000 horse and three cushoons (companies) of infantry with guns, with directions also from his master to increase that force by new levies as quickly as possible. It is said that Meer Cumber-ud-deen Khan is to follow in a short time with more considerable force in order to join Baber—Jung.

It is rumoured at Tippoo's Durbar that the propositions made on Tippoo's part to the Poonah Government are of a nature hostile to the English, purporting that, in case he affords the required assistance on the present occasion the Marattas shall hereafter co-operate with him in his designs against the English, to which it is believed that the Marattas will be well inclined, for it is reported at Tippoo's Court that they are very much incensed against the English for allowing a body of English troops to act in concert with the Nizam to the great prejudice of and in opposition to the Maratta interests, and that although the English endeavour to palliate that procedure by declaring that the troops thus employed are in the pay and service of the Nizam and totally unconnected with the English interests and arms, yet it clearly evinces that the Nizam's cause is the object of their support, and in that point of view, as regarding their own political safety, it will be incumbent on the Marattas to connect themselves with Tippoo.

Tippoo gives every encouragement to merchants and others for the procuring of horses ; in consequence caravans of them are constantly arriving at Seringapatam.

There is no truth in the report of an order having been issued for assembling at Seringapatam all the Sirkar gun bullocks. They are still dispersed (as is usual in time of peace) throughout the different parts of the country for the purposes of forage.

**No. 251.** Malet sending news to Shore from Poona, mentions the attempt made by his son to release Moroba Fadnis from captivity.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE.

*Poona, 17th November 1794.*

I took the liberty of troubling you by last post with an ancient inscription from a cave in Salsette. At the same time you will have received the unpleasant confirmation of the progress of the French arms in Austrian Netherlands in consequence, I apprehend, of the unsuccessful attack on the French posts between Lisle and Courtray on the 16th or 17th May, in which the Duke of York's personal safety was so imminently endangered. These circumstances increase my solicitude concerning your health ; because they corroborate the persuasion with which I have been long impressed of the necessity of every post of importance being well filled during this critical and eventful period. In a late letter, I mentioned that Morobau Furnese's son had been apprehended in an attempt, as was reported, to make his escape—about 3 or 4 months ago. This young man expressed a wish to me by one of my writers, that I would use my good offices with Nanna to procure the enlargement of his father, which I declined, and heard no more of the matter. It seems the young man's application to my writer has been made known to Nanna in the general examination that has taken place on the young man's seizure and I have been applied to on the subject, which I shall answer with a true state of the case which will, I trust, be as satisfactory as it ought to be, unless the same jealous captious spirit which I have lately experienced causes me the malefication of a disappointment. Notwithstanding the reports of Doulut Rao Sindia's movement, I am not without doubts that the inconvenience to which his troops will be subjected in moving from their present ground and equipping themselves for a campaign, will cause considerable delay, as the expense of equipment here will be very different to what his troops have been used in Hindostan, where they could get a camel for 50 and a tattoo for 25, which they can't now get here under 200 and 100 Rs. each.

**No. 252.**—Shore informs Malet of the jealousy entertained by the Court of Poona towards the British power.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—SIR C. W. MALET.

*Fort William, 27 November 1794*

Sir,

I have received your letters of the 28th October and 3d November with the several papers enclosed.

The unwarrantable jealousy of the Poona Government is ill contrasted with the candour of our conduct. As it has been assumed without cause or pretext, it must be left to expire without any efforts on our part to remove it, unless the Minister should enable you to do it by previously stating the grounds of his suspicions, which after all may be pretended only

**No. 253.**—Malet communicates to Kirkpatrick the aggressive tendency of the Marathas towards the British power

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—THE RESIDENT WITH NIZAM ALLY KHAN.

*Poona, 24 November 1794*

I have been duly honored with your letter the 14th inst

Will you allow that we have not knowingly furnished this Court with even the show of a ground for imputing to us an intention of supporting A. O. in violating any engagements he may have contracted with this State, and on reference to the 6 par of my letter of 7 inst you will perceive that the ground then presumed of this Court's jealousy is rested merely on your supposition of the tenor of the Edgheer treaty; but dropping with you all further speculation on that mysterious instrument, I will at once join issue with you in the excessive distrust of this Court without attempting a further investigation of the cause of its suspicions, which are perhaps reciprocal and which may without entering into minutia be pretty well understood from the general circumstances of our respective situations, which in my humble opinion constitute a predicament of material jealousy of their encroachments and of our power to prevent them and to stop the progress of their unmeasurable ambition, allowing even that they do us the justice to acquit us of the same spirit.

Nor can this Court be unconscious of the uneasiness with which we must behold the present probability of the entire subjugation of the Nazim's power, added to the alarming ascendancy so completely established over

the Mogul Power in the north and so pertinaciously labouring to be established in Bundelcund, success in which would expose our and that of our ally the Vizier's frontier from its northern extremity to that desirable object of Hindoo acquisition of Benares, exclusive of the exposure of our more southern borders to the invasion of the Bhonsla Power, but in this extension of this State's power and of its claim we must not forget the concomitant susceptibility of danger to its energy and integrity, nor that the vigorous preservation of our institutions would I trust be at all events unsurmountable to its utmost efforts

I have more than once noticed to you my idea that this Court will not be inattentive to lull Tippe into an acquiescence in its present views and objects, if himself sufficiently disposed to observe a conduct promotive of dissensions amongst his neighbors, nor do I think it would be an improbable stroke of conjecture to suppose that it will endeavor to convey to him as a merit on its part the discouragement given by it to our proposal for drawing closer the knot of defensive alliance, suppressing, however, our discouragement of its proposal to support its claims of Choute on that Prince.

I have not yet been favoured by Meer Alum with an account of his conference with the Peshwa and his Ministers mentioned in the newspapers of this day, nor with the draft of his letter to A. O. promised in his last meeting with me at which it escaped me to mention to you that he had noticed your having granted the Nazim a dustuck for arms and ammunition from Madras

[Here occurs a gap of about 6 months period which is covered by the Kharda Campaign and which is being treated in a separate volume]

**No. 254.**—The Resident of Poona conveys to the Resident of Hyderabad some very pertinent reflections comparing the military strength of the Co. with that of the Indian powers. It would seem that the Marathas had every prospect of preserving their supremacy, had not the promising young Peshwa died a premature death only four months after this.

FROM—MR. J. UHTHOFF,

.TO—THE RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

*Poona, 27 June 1795.*

I agree with you that it might not, perhaps, be difficult to awaken the apprehensions of the Governments of Poona and Hyderabad towards the French. The Nizam in particular might be very easily brought to a recollection of the dangers to which he was some years ago subjected by Monsr. Bussy who though he had more Europeans with him than Mr. Raymond has, was greatly inferior to him in force in Native Infantry.

The efficient authority of the Poona Government is now and has long been under the control of Nana Furnavees, for though the Peshwa attained to years of maturity and is treated with every possible respect as the head

of the Mahratta Empire, (the nominal deference professed occasionally towards the Rajah of Sittarah out of the question, as of no intrinsic importance), he does not, I believe, transact any points of Government but at the recommendation or, at least, entire acquiescence of Nana Furnaveese. The facility with which the Poona Government makes subservient to its views all the great members of the Mahratta Empire frequently even contrary to their own individual interests, renders it an unquestionable point that the Poona Government at present possess very considerable controul over all the members of the Mahratta Empire. I am inclined to think that the great good fortune or success of the Mahratta Empire of late years, has, in some degree, estranged Nana from the wary and moderate system that he pursued while the Empire was pressed with difficulty both domestic and foreign. The points of good fortune or success that I allude to, are as follow —The removal of the great danger from Tippoo ever impending and ready to fall on the Mahratta Empire without warning and with the utmost effect, the consequent acquisition to the Empire of a very valuable and most desirable tracts of country, the death of Sindia, Nana's only formidable rival and the consequent ascendancy of the Poona Government over the possessions, power and influence of that chiefship. The removal of Azeem-ul-Omrah and other very decided and permanent advantages gained over the Nizam. Perhaps, also, the death of Harry Punt may be included, for though he was raised by Nana to whom he had rendered very important services, yet his influence had become in many points so great as to be irksome to Nana.

It is a well established point, that unbounded ambition and encroachment are among the most prominent features of the Mahratta Empire.

Under the above circumstances, and the removal of almost every check or obstacle between the Mahrattas and the Company, a prospect is no doubt presented of a war between the Mahrattas and us.

Still, however, I am inclined to think, that Nana has experienced so many happy effects from preserving a good understanding with the Company and that he has so high an opinion of their force, that he will find many solid reasons against coming to a rupture with them. The inflexible adherence to engagements, good faith, and moderation, observed by the Company for many years past, will no doubt have an influence favorable to us in many respects with all the country powers in general.

Nana has also many important domestic points to attract his attention. The claim of the Mahratta of the Chout from Tippoo will probably, I think, be one of the first foreign points that he will attempt to carry.

We have still a further prospect of security to ourselves in the consideration that the present flourishing and formidable state of the Mahratta Empire is principally ascribable to the personal abilities and

influence of Nana and that his death will probably make a very material alteration in the State. He is now an elderly man and is very far from robust.

It is but justice to Nana to give him credit for his conduct in general towards us for these ten years past ; for it cannot but be yet fresh in the memory of every one, that but a few years have elapsed since we supported to the extremity of hostility the cause of the party adverse to him in the state, which involved the Mahratta Empire in the utmost distress, and brought it to the lowest ebb.

Without adverting to the affairs of Europe the continuance of our Indian Government and military force on their present respectable footing are essential points towards the maintenance of our security. Perhaps, it might not be improper to add, the improvement of our military force.

The regular infantry under European Officers that the country powers, the Mahrattas in particular, have of late years maintained in their service merits, no doubt, our very serious attention and check as far as possible without involving more serious consequences. I am, however, disposed to flatter myself, that, at present at least, we have not much to apprehend from them and for the following reasons: the Nizam's Infantry are principally, if not solely, I understand, composed of Frenchmen. Tippoo has, I believe, but few Europeans and they are at present of no great consequence. Among the Mahratta Infantry Deboigne's in particular, which are by far the most formidable, the officers are of various nations and many of them originally British subjects, these three bodies therefore do not seem likely to coalesce heartily against us. Besides from what has fallen under my observation, there are comparatively very few Europeans among the Mahratta Infantry, and they are not in general persons of very transcendent talents, though the privates of these corps are in general strong and well looking, they are very defective. I must also confess myself disposed to think that many of the present officers born and bred subjects of Great Britain would not act heartily against us.

One of the wives of Nana Furnavese died here the 23rd instant. This is the eighth or ninth wife that he has lost, and he has not any children.

**No. 255.**—The Resident of Hyderabad communicates his views upon the flight of Alijah and its consequences upon the attitude of the Maratha State.

FROM—WILLIAM KIRKPATRICK,

TO—JOSHUA UHTHOFF, ASSISTANT RES., POONAH.

*Hyderabad, 18 July 1795.*

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 11th instant to the 3rd paragraph of which I cannot give a better answer than what is contained in the 4th paragraph of mine of the 6th July.

It is so confidently affirmed, and so generally believed here, that Gobind Kishen was instrumental to the flight of Ali Jah, that it would be considered by most people either as mere perverseness or dissimulation to discredit the report. Yet I see no necessity for implicitly believing it. It was nothing extraordinary that this Prince, (living as he did in a sort of disgrace and fearing possibly something worse), should be desirous of making his escape from hence, nor could the assistance of Gobind Kishen be necessary to him in accomplishing this point, however he might reckon upon it in his subsequent proceedings. On the other hand, however, it must be allowed to be probable enough that the Vakeel may have secretly encouraged him to take this step, since the embarrassment into which it could scarcely fail to throw the Nizam, would be extremely favourable to his purpose of compelling his Highness to model his Ministry conformably to his wishes and I accordingly think it very likely to produce this effect in the end. But although Gobind Kishen may have acted the part in this business attributed to him by the world, it does not follow that his court must have been privy or consenting to the intrigue, since there is reason to believe that he is of a character not likely to shrink from the responsibility of such a measure.

How Balajee Pundit will comport himself in the future progress of the affair may not perhaps be difficult to surmise, since it may be safely assumed, I fancy, as a general position, that he will not let slip so favourable an occasion of acquiring that absolute sway over the councils of this state, which has so long been the object of his pursuit. He probably will still be disposed to preserve those appearances of moderation and of personal consideration for the Nizam which he has pretty constantly affected to maintain, and by persevering in which he is tolerably sure of being ultimately no loser. Scarcely anything but the decided interposition of the Mahrattas can bring about an early termination of the existing contests or compose the factious differences which have for some time past rent and enfeebled this Government, sufficiently weak and distracted before. I accordingly conclude that they will interpose, and incline to think that they may, as a preliminary, demand of his Highness to declare Ali Jah as his successor. They will also, perhaps, stipulate for his being admitted immediately to a share in the administration; but they will hardly do this without previously securing his subserviency to their views. On the other hand, should they not find the prince sufficiently tractable, or should he prove troublesomely jealous of the independence of the state to the dominion of which he aspires, they will most probably throw their weight into the scale of the Nizam, yet not till the perplexities and difficulties of his Highness shall have reached such a height as to reduce him to the necessity of purchasing their support upon their own terms.



**No. 256.**—Uthoff reports to the G. G. his interview with B. P. in which Nana was charged with extreme reserve towards the Resident B. P. easily explained the suspicions away.

FROM—MR. J. UTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL

*Poona, 25 July 1795.*

I have of late made a friendly remonstrance to the Minister, through Behroo Pundit, of the extreme reserve of this Court in it's silence relative to the affair of Ally Jah and the dismissal of Tippoo's Vackeels : contrasting this reserve with the frankness of my communications, relative to the recall of the Madras Detachment by Nizam Ali Khan, and the intelligence of the affairs of Europe To which I added, that intelligence had reached me of military preparations being on foot at the Marratta fort of Basseen, near the Island of Salsette, which had caused considerable alarm among the inhabitants of that island, an explanation of which I required. The latter article of intelligence had been conveyed to me by the Chief of Salsette.

After a general kind of observation, that such points as appeared worthy of notice were always communicated by the Durbar a few days sooner or later, the Minister signified to me, that Ally Jah had got possession of the fort of Bidder, and that Nizam Ally Khan had sent against him Ghasi Meah, Monsieur Raymond, and other chiefs and troops That the object of Tippoo's embassy had been formerly communicated, and that the Vackeels had had their audience of leave of the Peshwa, but that they had yet to receive their dismissal from himself (the Minister) to whom they were charged by Tippoo with presents and congratulations on his late marriage, and that this would take place in a few days That as to the military preparations said to be on foot at Basseen no orders to that effect had been issued by the Durbar, nor was it known to him that any such preparations were making. That, however, the Marratta officer there, might, perhaps, be mending the gun-carriages or making other necessary ordinary repairs.

Till I again hear from Salsette on the subject, I shall not take any further notice thereof to the Durbar

The Minister has at length furnished me with a memorandum, for your notice, of the party appointed to escort the jewels from Benares to Poona, which he pretends will be ready to commence the journey as soon as furnished by me with the requisite letters and passports, which shall be supplied immediately and copies thereof transmitted to you.

**No. 257.**—Uthhoff communicates to G. G. news from the Poona Court respecting the situation and prospects of the families of Sindia and Holkar.

FROM—Mr. J UTHOFF,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 8th August 1795*

On the 5th Doulut Row Sindia was formally invested by the Peshwa with a Kheellut of despatch to Hindostan. He will, however, remain here about ten or twelve days longer, and, in the interim, celebrate the Hindoo holydays of Jennum Ashtamce. The cause of the investiture taking place so long before his departure, is said to be, that no other propitious day would occur for some time. It is expected that the Peshwa will pay him a visit before his departure.

It is thought that Doulut Row will remain at Jamgaum till the Dusra (about 22nd October) at least. His movements will probably depend a good deal on the state of affairs in Nijam Ally Khan's country and government.

I have not yet been able to ascertain the terms on which Dowlut Row has obtained his despatch. There is no appearance at present of a change in his Ministry. A little time will probably shew what has been settled respecting Abba Chitnavees and whether or not, any person of consequence on the part of the Paishwa is to accompany Dowlut Row. It is understood that no part of the balance of the fifty lacs of Rupees lately stipulated to be paid by Nijam Ally Khan to Doulut Row, will ever reach the coffers of the latter, but either be appropriated to the use of the Paishwa or under the head of Durbar charges here. Of the above fifty lacs of Rupees, indeed, about twenty-seven lacs had been received by Doulut Row and his predecessor from Nijam Ally Khan previous to the late peace.

On the 6th instant Kassi Row Holkar, eldest son of Tukojee, set off from hence for Chuly Mahishwur, the place of residence of Aleabyhe, who is said to be very ill. Tukojee also does not enjoy a good state of health. Aleabyhe is the widow of the eldest son of Malhar Row, formerly the head of the Holkar family and Tukojee is the nephew of Malhar Row. The affairs of the Holkar family have been long under the management of Tukojee and Aleabyhe, who are both advanced in age. It is expected that on their death (or perhaps, on the death of one of them) there will be a competition between Kassi Row and Malhar Row his younger brother. The former is represented as of weak intellect and the latter

as very defective in wisdom, conduct or prudence. The affairs of the Holkar Family have been long on the decline and are not now of much consideration in the general scale of India. The Paishwa and Doulut Row Sindea will probably aggrandize themselves on the ruins of the Holkar family.

Ragoojee Bhonsla and Pursuram Bhow are still here. Nothing material respecting them has of late occurred

I have been assured through private channels that the letters for you, Hon'ble Sir, and the Resident at Benares, lately delivered by Doulut Row to the Peshwa, are to the purport mentioned in my address of the 1st instant. The doubts I entertained on the subject were founded on the improbability of the Peshwa having recourse to the interposition of Doulut Row, in an affair of so little consequence, which might have been more easily and speedily settled by the Peshwa's writing to you himself or representing it through this Residency. Besides, I thought it unlikely that jewels of the value of 25,000 Rupees should have been trusted to our Dauk or that they would have been received into it.

**No. 258.**—Palmer communicates to the G. G. the news of Ahalyabai Holkar's death at Maheswar on 13 August 1795.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER, RESIDENT WITH SINDIA,

TO—GOVERNOR GENERAL

*Fatteghur, 27th August 1795.*

I have this morning received intelligence of the death of Aleah Bhye, at Mohaeser on the 27th of Mohurram

It was in right of this lady and as the adopted son of Mulhar Row that the Soubadar Tookojee Hoolkar exercised the Government of Indowr and other districts in Hindostan. I understand that he some time since transferred the succession to his second son Kashebah Hoolkar, and that the latter was required by Aleah Bhye to repair to Mohaeser as soon as she found her indisposition to be alarming and is now on his way from Poona.

There has been no appearance of intention in the Peshwa's Government to change the administration of those countries in case of the event which has taken place and of course no disturbances or change of interests are likely to ensue.

No. 259.—Kirkpatrick forwards to the G. G. some secret news he had received and quotes instances to prove the Nizam's secret resentment towards the Marathas

FROM—WM KIRKPATRICK,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE.

*Hyderabad, 22nd September 1795*

Since addressing you on the 17th instant I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 3rd

The enclosure No. 1 is translate of some intelligence which I have lately procured regarding the mission of Succaram Pundit, and though I cannot vouch for its truth, yet I own I think it carries on the face of it such an air of authenticity as, independently even of other corroborative circumstances, would seem to challenge no inconsiderable degree of credit. It was communicated, with the exception only of the concluding article, by a person holding an office of trust under the Roy Royan; the concluding article was obtained through a channel no less respected, but however light Gobind Kishan may occasionally affect to make of the negotiations of Succaram Pundit, it cannot reasonably be supposed that he is either ignorant of or indifferent to the real object of them.

Meer Allum tells me that he has not yet had such an opportunity as he wishes for, of communicating to the Nizam my late letter to him on the subject of this Vakeel

Having frequently signified to Meer Allum a desire to be favoured with a sight of the Paishwa's letter to his Highness relative to the return of our Detachment, he has at length procured from the office of the Meer Moonshi and sent me the original for perusal. Of this the inclosure No. 2 is a faithful translation. I shall only remark upon this curious document that, if on the one hand it sufficiently proves that the recall of the Detachment was not contrary to any stipulation entered into by the Nizam at Khurdlah, it no less demonstrates on the other that the court of Poonah was very far from considering the measure with the indifference formerly attributed to it by Meer Allum

Having lately learned from (a person) belonging to Gobind Kishan that the Nizam had some time since received a letter from Zuman Shah (the Patan King of Cabul) announcing his intention of undertaking shortly an expedition to Hindostan and requiring him to be prepared to co-operate with his forces against the Mahrattahs, I enquired of Meer Allum whether or not there was any foundation for such a report. He demed that any letter had been received from Zuman Shah himself, but acknowledged that a person connected with the court of Cabul and residing at Delhi, had addressed his Highness to the effect just mentioned.

He added that by his advice a verbal answer had been given to the bearer of the letter in question purporting that by the blessing of God there existed no longer any difference between his Highness and the Pundit Purdhaun. A similar reply, he further assured me, had been returned at the same time to an overture made by the Gussain Himmudt Behadur, who had proposed proceeding to Hyderabad and entering into the service of his Highness with a considerable body of troops. But whatever Meer Allum's advice on the occasion might be, it is after all uncertain whether or not it was sincerely followed, and indeed, considering the undissembled dissatisfaction of the Nizam with the court of Poonah about the time alluded to, it does not by any means seem unlikely that he should have secretly encouraged the proposed enterprize of Zuman Shah notwithstanding anything that he might outwardly profess to the contrary.

I am just informed that Mullic Esau Khan, whose arrival here yesterday morning was noticed in my letter of the same date to Mr Uhthoff, is come from the army for the purpose of representing to his Highness the requisition of Ali Jah and Suddasheo Ruddy. I am also this instant given to understand that it has been determined that Meer Allum shall proceed to Bider with the Detachment of the Company's troops which is to commence its march tomorrow.

**No. 260.**—Uhthoff reports to the G. G. his visits to Baba Fadke and to the Peshwa and learns of the capture of Trincomalee by the British.

FROM—THE ASSISTANT TO THE RESIDENT AT POONA,  
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 26th September 1795.*

On the 22nd instant I paid a visit by invitation to Baba Furkia, second son of the late Hurry Pundit, on the occasion of his celebrating the Hindoo ceremonies in honor of the idol Gunnes. Baba Furkia is the acting head of the family, his elder brother Dadjee (Daji) having bad health and not being a man of business.

From Baba Furkia's I went to the Peshwa's by invitation also on the same occasion who received me in a very full Durbar where were present Nanna, Appa Bulwunt, Govin Pingleh, Behroo Pundit, Rung-Row Raja Bahauder and Sedojee, son of the late Larojee Deysmook, by the only grown up daughter of the deceased Mahadjee Sindia.

It is the custom, both of the Peshwa and Furkia family, to celebrate annually the festival of Gunnes, at which Sir Charles Malet has usually been present by invitation. I had every reason to be perfectly satisfied with my reception on both occasions.

Doulut Row Sindia arrived at Jamgaun the 22nd Instant I understand that there has lately been some disturbance in the province of Bheer, but whether between Nezam Ally Khan's people and the Marrattas or by the Marrattas among themselves I have not yet been able to ascertain. Bapoo Selokur is said to be wounded Abba Selokur's party is augmented, but is still within about twelve miles of Poona

On the 23rd I communicated to the Durbar our acquisition of Trincomalay, which, indeed, I had heard two days before but judged it advisable to waive the communication in person, from my information being very confined, and not specifying whether fort Osnaburg, as well as the lower fort, was in our possession, though abundance of time had elapsed for my being furnished with the most accurate and ample intelligence from Madras on the subject A communication in person, therefore, from the conversation that it would have led to, would only have exposed my ignorance, which could not have failed to have affected the respectability of my situation, so necessary to be upheld by every possible means, though a personal communication would no doubt have had more effect than by message Behroo Pundit expressed to me his congratulations on the occasion

**No. 261.**—Uthhoff reports to the G. G. the terms of a settlement between the Peshwa and Daulatrao Sindia and mentions the arrest and confinement of Balwantrao Nagnath.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 29th September 1795.*

I understand from pretty good authority that some of the articles of the settlement which took place between the Peshwa and Doulut Row Sindia, on the late dispatch of the latter to Hindostan, are as follow —Nuzzerana fifty lacs of Rupees to the Peshwa and ten to Nana Furnavees, half to be paid on the arrival of Doulut Row at Ugin, and the other half on his arrival in Hindostan, some very valuable jewellery presented to the Peshwa, sixty lacks of rupees to be paid annually by Dowlut Row to the Peshwa I understand that no part of the balance of accounts between the Peshwa and the late Mhadjee Sindia and which is stated at about six crores of rupees, will be forthcoming to Doulut Row, but in what manner it has been liquidated I have not been able to ascertain exactly, further than that some claims of the Peshwa are brought forward in part liquidation and that the rest has been relinquished by Doulut Row The forts of

Gwalior and Aser to remain with Doulut Row, though their cession to the Peshwa had been at one time in agitation.

Jeajee Bukshy's detention here is thought to be for the purpose of arranging the settlement between Sindia and Holkar : though it appears that that is left by both parties to the mediation and discretion of the Poona Government. The state of affairs in Nizam Ally Khan's Government and country is probably another cause of his detention. I understand that Mr. Perron's Brigade has marched from its cantonments at Naug Talow towards Burhaunpore

A Bramin named Bulwant Row Nagnath was yesterday sent in irons to the hill fort of Singur, about 8 miles to the southward of Poona. He commanded a party stationed with Bajy Row, the son of the late Ragonaut Row, at the fort of Juneer about sixty miles to the northward of Poona, and is said to have been detected in some treasonable practices

## SECTION 6

### *The death of the Peshwa and the accession of Chimnaji Raghunath*

No. 292—Unthoff communicates to the G. G. the details of Balwantrao Nagnath's intrigue and the movements of Raghujī Bhosle and Aba Shelukar.

TO—GOVERNOR GENERAL,

FROM—ASSISTANT RESIDENT AT POONA

*Poona, 3rd October 1795*

The most credible reports that I have yet been able to collect here, of the affair of Bulwant Row Naugnaut are as follow That having of late been much about the person of the Peshwa he had endeavoured to impress him with an idea that his dignity was much affected by the great authority and reputation of the Minister Nana Furnavees, (nothing) more than the name of the head of the Mahratta Empire remaining to the Peshwa That it would in consequence be highly worthy of him—the Peshwa—to remove the present minister and to release Moraba Furnavees the cousin of Nana Furnavees now in confinement in the fort of Ahmednuggur and Bajy Row, the son of the late Ragoonaut Row, which would establish his consequence on a proper footing. This is said to have been revealed to Nana Furnavees by Gomaiçā Pandit, the Dewan of Bulwunt Row Everything that has yet come to my knowledge corroborates the idea that the design whatever it has been was to the prejudice of Nana Furnavees Bulwunt Row is a person of considerable



consequence in the State. A strong guard is placed over him at his house in town, but he is not in irons as was at first reported.

A dependant of the Sindia family is said to have been lately employed in some secret political affair between the Peshwa and Doulut Row without the knowledge of the principal ministers of the latter. My last accounts from Doulut Row's camp are of the 29th ultimo when he was still at Jamgaum.

Ragoojee Bhonsla left Poona the 1st instant to pay his devotions at Jejuri, a famous Hindoo temple about thirty miles to the s e whence it is expected that he will proceed to Dewai (Deur) a village belonging to his family, a few miles further in the same direction; after which, it is said he will return hither.

Abba Selokur has moved so far from Poona, that I am not just now able to ascertain exactly where he is. Some say that he is in the neighbourhood of Purrainda, and no accounts make him less than sixty miles to the eastward of Poona. There is a report here, that Ally Jah has left Bidder, and it is thought that if he cannot maintain himself in the field, he will take refuge with Selokur.

**No. 263**—The death of the Peshwa and the circumstances of the succession are described in this letter by J. Uthoff for the information of the G. G.

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

*Poona, 27th October 1795.*

I lose not a moment in acquainting you that the Paishwa is dead.

*Poona, 29th October 1795.*

At 10 p.m. the 27th instant I sent off an express, acquainting you with the death of the Peshwa, which happened that evening about 6 o'clock. The corpse was burnt in the course of the night, at one of the places in town, on the banks of the river, where the funeral obsequies of the Brahmins are usually performed.

Early the next morning I requested Behroo Pundit to fix a time for Sir Charles Malet's Munshy to wait upon him with a message from me: to which, he replied, that he would send me an answer, after consulting the Minister, Nanna Fernavees, on the subject.

Nothing further passed in the course of the 28th, but early the next morning, Behroo Pundit desired the Munshy to call upon him, which

he accordingly did, and delivered a message\* from me to the following purport, in the mode and terms of which, I endeavoured to blend frankness and sincerity with delicacy towards Nanna influenced thereto, by a consideration of the liberal spirit of our institutions, the treaties and long and close friendship between the Company and the Mahrattas, and the peculiar and important situation that Nanna had held for so many years past in this Government

"That ever since the unfortunate accident had happened to the Peshwa, I had, in the most unreserved and sincere manner made a tender of every service in my power, both political and medical as well on the part of my Government as of Sir Charles Malet and myself, and though the minister had not been pleased to avail himself thereof, it made not any difference That I could now assure him, that even the death of the Peshwa, which had subsequently happened, would not affect the treaties and friendship that had so long and so happily for both Governments subsisted between the Company and the Mahratta State, and in which he (the Minister) had borne so conspicuous a part, that from the state of the connexion between the two Governments, I trusted he (the Minister) would unreservedly advise me, for the information of my superiors, of the measures that might be now adopted here, in particular with regard to the succession That I also begged to be informed of the ceremonies of mourning and condolence that were usual and proper on such occasions as the present, that I might conform myself thereto That as in the present very critical state of affairs, Sir Charles Malet might probably be anxious to resume his situation here as soon as possible, it was my wish and intention to post four horses for him on the road between this and Bombay, to promote and facilitate the expedition of his journey hither."

Behroo Pundit merely observed that he would consult the Minister on the above To which he added, in reply to my personal enquiries to himself, that the succession was not yet settled, that Pursaram Bhow was expected here every hour, and that he believed Rogoojee Bhonsla and Dowlut Row Sindia were also summoned, and would be here soon.

Bajy Row's claims to the succession will be found in the enclosed copy of my letter of yesterday to Major Roberts, as well as in some of my late addresses to you, Honourable Sir, to which it seems to me, from present appearances, may be added, that his cause is popular in the Mahratta empire There is, however, an idea very prevalent here, that Nana (whose influence in the State is too well known to render it necessary for me to dwell upon it), is disinclined to his succession and that he would

\* The marginal remarks made by the C. C. on reading the letter are here reproduced in a foot-note "The message should have been confined to general expression of concern for the Peshwa's death More was unnecessary."

wish to supplant him by some infant of the family I have all along been aware, that such a thing was possible, nay probable, from the aversion that Nana must have towards Bajy Row and all his connexions and adherents, and the apprehensions that he may very reasonably entertain of the diminution of his influence in the State if not of its total annihilation and even of his personal freedom and life, by the office of Peshwa being held by Bajy Row

This idea is now strongly corroborated by the following circumstances In the common course of things, Bajy Row would have been proclaimed Peshwa (as Ragonaut Row was on the death of Narrain Row), within a few hours after the office became vacated yet, to the present hour, the succession is confessedly not settled Bajy Row is so near to Poona, that he might have been here ere now, had his presence been required

From present appearances I am inclined to think, that if Nana can obtain the sanction of Ragojee Bhonsla, Dowlut Row Sindia, Pursaram Bhou, Tuckojee Holcar and Rasta,—he will set aside Bajy Row. It is doubtful, whether or not Ragojee Bhonsla and Sindia will come thither, and there is some reason to think that they and Tuckojee Holcar will not acquiesce in Bajy Row's being set aside, while Pursaram Bhou and Rasta will probably be with Nana on the opposite side of the question ; Mhadoo Row Rasta is arrived here and his elder brother Anund Row is expected hourly

I trust that Sir Charles Malet will resume his situation here before it is necessary for us to take either side of the question,\* or, at least, that I shall have the benefit of his orders and advice for the regulation of my conduct on the occasion

My intercourse with town has been a good deal obstructed by the guards posted there, and at the avenues and environs, but in other respects I have not experienced the least molestation, and Nanna has this morning issued orders that all people connected with this Residency shall have free ingress and egress during the day time Everything is hitherto quiet here All the shops in town are shut

I have again strongly recommended Kessoo Row an accommodation between Ally Jah and His Highness and suggested Meer Allum as the best channel of mediation.

There seems great reason to suppose that Nanna's principal arguments against Bajy Row's succession particularly with the great Mahratta chieftains at the grand national Council will be drawn from the connexion between that branch of the family and us My messages, since the accident of the morning of the 25th instant, will probably if he submits them to the council, tend in some degree to baffle these arguments and

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\* Remark by G G —“ It cannot be necessary for us to take either side of the question — our connection is with the State not persons, and all interference is improper.”

if he withholds them from their knowledge, I shall probably take some means of bringing them forward again

I have not yet received any answer from Behroo Pundit ; nor have I any information of the arrival of Bajy Row, Ragoojee Bhonsla, Dowlut Row Sindia, or Pursaram Bhow Chimnajee Appa, Bajy Row's only brother, is talked of for the succession. There is a report that both Bajy Row and Dowlut Row are sick, but I don't believe it

**No. 264**—The Assistant Resident arranges to convey the news of the Peshwa's death to the Resident at Hyderabad through the Commanding Officer of the British Regiment

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—MAJOR GEORGE ROBERTS, COMMANDING THE MADRAS  
DETACHMENT, ACTING WITH NIZAM ALLY KHAN,

*Poona, 28th October 1795.*

I have the honour to acquaint you with the death of the Peshwa, which happened yesterday evening about 7 o'clock, in consequence of a fall from an upper apartment the morning of the 25th instant

Guards are posted in every part of Poona and the environs, and affairs are hitherto in a tranquil state here. No official communication has been yet made to me from the Durbar ; but it is generally reported, that Ragoojee Bhonsla, Dowlut Row Sindia, Pursaram Bhow and Rasta, are expected here ; and that Bajy Row is to be the successor. Bajy Row is the eldest son of the late Ragonaut Row, the nearest akin to the Peshwa just deceased, about twenty years of age, and now a state prisoner in the hill fort of Juneer, about fifty miles to the northward of Poona.

Having sent off two expresses yesterday to Hyderabad by our own Dawk, I dispatch this to you direct by hired Cossids, and have to request you will give the earliest advice thereof to Captain Kirkpatrick, to provide against the possible accident of a miscarriage by our own Dawk

I have delayed the dispatch of this letter, partly on account of the difficulty of getting Cossids, and partly with a view to convey to you some important information on the two grand points of the succession, and the arrival of the great chieftains here but on neither point have I yet been enabled to obtain authentic intelligence. I reside without the town, the avenues to which are so occupied by guards, that my intercourse is very much impeded. No successor is yet proclaimed. Tookojee Holkar paid a visit this afternoon to the Minister, Nanna Furnavees, the result of which I have not yet learned. Everything is hitherto quiet.

No. 265—Uhthoff after minute inquiries describes in this letter to the G. G. the fall of the Peshwa from the upper terrace of his palace to the fountain below, fracturing his thigh bone. All available details and reports of the incident are mentioned.

FROM—THE ASSISTANT TO THE RESIDENT AT POONA,  
TO—THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN SHORE.

*Poona, 2nd November 1795.*

A little after 8 o'clock in the morning of the 25th I received intelligence that there was considerable alarm and confusion in town, that the gates of the Durbar were shut, additional guards posted there, and no one permitted to enter, except the principal Brahmins, who are usually about the person of the Peshwa, that many of the shops were shut &c, that the cause of this was some accident that had happened to the Peshwa, of the particulars of which, reports were various but all agreed he was hurt by a fall

I immediately sent a message to Behroo Pundit (through whom the business between the Durbar and the Residency is conducted), enquiring the particulars of this affair and in the possible unfortunate event of any accident having happened to the Peshwa, in which medical assistance might be requisite, offering the services of Mr Findlay, the Surgeon here Behroo Pundit's answer, as communicated to you, Hon'ble Sir, thro' Mr. Secretary Hay on the 25th instant, was—"That the Peshwa had fallen from an upper room and bruised his right leg and arm but that he was then pretty well"

The answers that I have hitherto received from the Durbar to my repeated enquiries, are—"That the Peshwa is pretty well,"—which account the Durbar people endeavour to spread and inculcate generally

The general opinion, however, corroborated by so many circumstances as from present appearances scarcely to admit a doubt, is, "That the thigh bone is broken, the arm very much bruised if not broken, and the face greatly disfigured and hurt; apprehensions also are entertained for the Peshwa's life."

Reports are various as to the cause of this melancholy affair, scarce one even of the most moderate considering it merely accidental, but at least originating in imprudence. Some say, that the Peshwa was sitting astride on the balustrade or parapet wall of a terrace or upper room, and losing his balance fell outwards into the basin of a stone fountain. The most prevalent account, however, is that the Peshwa in a temporary fit of delirium or derangement jumped or fell from an upper room or terrace into a fountain below. However strange this may appear, I assure you, Hon'ble Sir, that I do not trouble you with it on mere vague

rumour, but from accounts through many different channels. It is even added by some, that the Peshwa had been out of order for two or three days but I must confess that I did not hear this before the accident, which I no doubt should have done, had it been at all serious, and, indeed on the 22nd instant the event was a public procession on the Dusra, one of the principal Hindoo festivals, when nothing of the kind appeared.

Within these seven weeks I have paid two visits to the Peshwa, the last on the 22nd ultimo, and though he conversed even more than usual, I did not perceive the slightest symptom of derangement.

I have through Behroo Pundit expressed my concern for the accident that has happened with assurances of the most sincere dispositions to render any service on the occasion which may be within my power, either by paying a visit to the Peshwa or Nanna, with a view to affording the medical assistance of Mr Findlay, the surgeon here, or by paying either or both of them a visit of condolence and consolation; or should a visit not be agreeable, submitting to them to furnish Mr Findlay with a particular state of the case, that he might prescribe what might appear to him useful and proper.

Though these people are very frank in their acknowledgment of the skill and success of European medical men yet strange to say between political and religious jealousy and distrust, the principal Brahmins here are very averse to avail themselves of their services though numbers of the lower class people have every day for near ten years past that this Residency has been established, benefited by the liberal assistance of our surgeons, Messrs. Crusoe or Findlay.

The minister sends me word, that he will give me an answer to my last message, after consulting the Peshwa on the subject this day.

After all, however, I am inclined to suspend my implicit belief both as to the cause and extent of the accident. though I have not any doubt that the Peshwa is much hurt.

In the possible event of the Peshwa's death at this juncture people here seem to look towards Bajy Row the son of the late Ragonaut Row as the successor, he is the nearest akin to the present Peshwa about twenty years of age and is now a state prisoner in the hill fort of Juneer about fifty miles to the northward of Poona.

I have not heard even a surmise that any one was instrumental towards the late accident, and, indeed, I understand that the Peshwa has been since the accident in such a state that, if it had been the case, he could have made it known.

I learn from pretty good authority that Ally Jah entered Aurungabad the 24th instant.

I this instant learn from Behroo Pundit through Sir Charles Malet's Munshy, whom I had sent to him to repeat my enquiries,—“That the

Peshwa had been a little out of order for a day or two, and that on the morning of the 25th instant, while sitting in an inner room with Doorgabyhe (his maternal grandmother) and some Brahmmins, he complained of the heat, got up suddenly and went to an adjoining terrace, from which he fell into a fountain below, that the thigh bone is broken, and one arm and the face much bruised, and that he is now in pain and weak "

All business is at a standstill at the Durbar, the usual guards in town increased, and no one admitted into the presence of the Peshwa, but three or four of the principal Brahmmins, two or three native doctors and a few attendants Baba Furkea, second son of the late Hurry Pundit, is constantly with the Peshwah

It is said, that Dowlut Row Sindia, Ragoojee Bhonsla, Pursaram Bhow, and Rasta, have been summoned to Poona, but I cannot vouch for it, and though it seems probable that the two latter, who are Brahmmins, should come, yet there appears but little reason to expect Sindea and still less Ragoojee Bhonsla

I have intimated to Kessoo Rou in the spirit of the third paragraph of your instructions on the subject to the Resident at Hyderabad of the 15th August last, that with a disinterested view to the welfare of Ally Jah an accommodation with his father seemed advisable, which was the wish of our Government

**No. 266**—Malet informs the Governor General of the consultations held by Nana with the various chiefs on the subject of choosing a successor to the late Peshwa.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN SHORE

*Poona, 6th November 1795.*

Since closing my address of yesterday, I have learnt, that during the evening Nanna Furnavees consulted separately and collectively with Pursaram Bhow, Anund Row Rasta, Baba Furkia, Appa Bulwunt, Behroo Pundit, his son Bhasker Pundit, and Govinrow Pinglih, all Brahmmins, on the difficult point of filling the vacant Musnud at which, it is said Pursaram Bhow, Anund Row Rasta on grounds of family and personal apprehensions declared against the sons of the late Ragaba; while on the other hand, the perils of superseding their indisputable rights were urged by Behroo Pundit on the plea of the danger of domestic and foreign disapproval\*. In the course of which, he laid great stress on the inevitable and incessant occurrence of domestic faction and commotion, by which the reliance of foreign powers would be divided if not totally alienated from a disputed head. He remarked on the inconsistency

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\*In the cypher, disavowal

that would attach to the measures of men, who having nobly supported the late Peshwa on the principle of right, should now have recourse to mere unjustifiable force and that of very doubtful efficiency, to subvert right and therewith endanger the existence of the Brahmin power in pursuit of personal animosities, adding that by the same rule that the English had formerly made a sacrifice of their engagements with Ragoba to the superior rights of the late Peshwa, so they would naturally expect that the ministers of this state should now admit the sons of Raghoba on the very plea by which they and their father had been hitherto excluded; and though the Nizam might not be influenced by the same rectitude, yet would he not be backward to take advantage of the errors or misconduct of the managers of this State

The consultation ended, I am told, in a determination to wait the arrival of Balloo Tantia, Sindia's executive Minister and ultimately to fill the vacancy in concert with the great Mahratta chieftains

I have not yet received any answer from Nanna Furnaveez to my memorial, nor has he, by message or in any other way, taken any notice of my arrival

Since writing the above, I have received an answer from Nanna to my memorial, translation of which I have the honor to enclose, but though couched in civil terms no person has been with me from him.

**No. 267**—Malet describes to the Governor General his interview with Nana on the question of succession to the Peshwaship. Nana found it impracticable to set aside the claims of Bajirao and his brother

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE

*Poona, 9th November 1795.*

My last address was dated the 6th instant

On the morning of the 8th it was notified to me by Behroo Pundit, that it being the thirteenth day from the Peshwa's death, the season of mourning ceased, and all the chiefs and people of consideration would pay a ceremonious visit of consolation at the palace, begging to know if I meant to come

Though I felt some awkwardness from Nanna Furnaveez's conduct, with whom my only intercourse was still confined to his answer to my memorial yet my willingness to coincide in the assurances that were made me from all quarters, that this ceremony was the only remaining opportunity of shewing my respect for the memory of the deceased and that it was totally unconnected with the minister, I proceeded



to the palace in the afternoon, where I found the Minister and a large assembly of people of consequence

I assured the Minister, and begged him to communicate the same to the widow and to such other of the deceased's relations as it might appertain, of the real and poignant grief with which I had been penetrated, by the late disaster, adding that as it was now irremediable, their good sense and resignation to the dispensations of an All Wise Providence, must be resorted to for patient endurance of an affliction to which nothing but the healing hand of time could furnish an effectual balm

The Minister assured me, that he would communicate my consolatory advice to the unfortunate widow. He then professed every thankful sense of the promptitude with which I had resolved and, the speed with which I had executed, my return to this place at so critical a time, which he attributed to the same friendly spirit that had characterized my ten years' ministry at this Court, in the course of which the friendship between the two States had been renewed and cemented

I replied that any success of my endeavours in so good a work was solely imputable to the instructions of my superiors, and his wise and friendly councils, that had enabled me to give them effect

He expressed a wish of the continuance of so happy a friendship. I replied, that my knowledge of the Governor General's sentiments enabled me to assure him that, as hitherto it rested on the friendship and good faith of this State to insure that of the British nation. He assured me, I might depend on his wish of increasing the present good understanding. I soon after quitted the palace.

From the mention of the Peshwa's widow as head in the Minister's answer to my memorial, an intention was betrayed of bringing that lady forward in some conspicuous point of view, but as at the consolatory visit of yesterday the presentment of a seyla to the male and of a sarree to the female heads of the family of the deceased was dispensed with, I apprehend the Minister may have discovered insuperable obstacles to the success of such an intention.

From what I can collect, under the extreme reserve of the Minister and his party, I am more and more inclined to think that the necessity of attending to the indisputable rights of the sons of Ragoba will supersede all Nana's objections to their succession. In which case his next object will be to frame such a party of the present ruling men as may enable him to prescribe such conditions to the introduction of this new branch as may to the extent of all the prudence and precaution in their power, insure their future safety, though your knowledge of the human mind in this state of society will easily enable you to conceive that the best security of such a predicament must be miserably precarious.

Ragojee Bhonsla, I understand, has wisely proceeded with all possible speed to his own territories where he will be best able to act as his interest may dictate

Doulut Row Sindia's Minister, Balloo Tantia, is not yet arrived, and his delay seems founded on the conjecture I formerly ventured of avoiding as long as possible, implication in the designs of this Minister or the necessity of opposing them

Tookajee Holkar, as before advised, is currently thought to have intimated a predilection for the succession of the rightful heirs

If Nana has still any thoughts of setting their claims aside, still I am inclined to think, that his sole prospect of success in the attempt must now rest in the acquiescence and support of the Nizam, the prepared and advanced state of whose force peculiarly suits him for the purpose, and Nana would hesitate at no terms to gain him

This important point, however, cannot be held much longer in suspense. The Nizam's decision must soon be known and the consequences will immediately follow. Or if the decision rests on domestic and precautionary arrangements, ample time has now elapsed for making them. In a word, the adoption or rejection of the sons of Ragoba cannot, I apprehend, remain much longer in suspense without hazarding some dangerous commotion

I have this day communicated the conquest of Cochin to the Minister, and signified my concern at the inattention, with which certain representations made by Mr Uhthoff during my absence have been treated.

**No. 268**—The Governor General advises absolute non-interference in the disputes regarding the succession to the Peshwaship.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—SIR C. W. MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA

*Fort William, 16th November 1795*

I have received your Assistant's letters of the 27th and 29th ultimo

His offer of medical assistance to the late Paishwa and attention to him during his illness, were perfectly proper, but the message delivered to Behroo Pundit for the minister, after the Paishwa's death should have been confined to general expressions of concern, more than this was unnecessary and exceptionable and with respect to our taking any part in the succession, a possible necessity for which is noticed in the 9th paragraph of Mr Uhthoff's letter of the 29th ultimo, I cannot see that

under any circumstances such necessity can exist, our connection is with the Marhatta state, not in any respect of a personal nature, and all interference on our part in an eventual disputed succession to the Paishwaship or otherwise, must for obvious reasons be improper

**No. 269**—Malet communicates to the Governor General the situation at Poona and public opinion thereon about the succession Nana, he says, must sacrifice his safety to the right of Bajirao.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE

*Poona, 20th November 1795.*

Under the total silence observed to me by Nanna Furnavees, nothing authentic, relative to the succession, has come to my knowledge since my last address of the 16th instant. I am, however, left to conclude, from the frequent and long consultations held amongst the leading Brahmins, that the very knotty point of filling the vacant musnud is still undecided

In the interim Nanna Furnavees has taken some measures to give currency to the public business of the State, in the mixed manner mentioned in my last address.

Apprehensions for the termination of so extraordinary a state of suspense seem creeping in, and individuals, I am told, are under various pretexts removing their families and effects from the city. In the eye of reason, it should seem, that the precarious life of so infirm a man as Nana, destitute as he is of an heir to support the hopes of his party, is too feeble a bond to combine mens' minds in the very serious consequences to themselves and their posterity of opposing the indisputable rights of the only possible claimant of the succession, for thinking people, in moments of prospicience (prospension?) cannot but reflect on the permanent good derivable from making their peace with their legitimate masters while merit can be derived from it, in preference to the serious evils of exposing themselves and families to future vengeance by attachment to the personal and baseless enmity of Nana, whence necessarily arises a predicament of singular difficulty and disquietude to that minister; for by admitting the sons of Ragoba personal safety must be sacrificed to right; by excluding them, right must be violated in pursuit of precarious personal safety

In either case great confusion and insecurity seem unavoidable, but by the introduction of the expedient proposed in my letter of the 31st instant to Captain Kirkpatrick.

**No. 270**—This is a written promise given to Nana Fadnis by the widow of the late Peshwa, agreeing to adopt a son and leaving the governing powers in the hands of Nana

*Substance of a communication made from a written document in the Marratta language by Bhasker Pundit son of Behroo Pundit, to Meer Nezamud-Deen-Hussein, Sir Charles Warre Malet's Munshy, and taken by him in writing in the Persian language.*

*Poona, 23rd November 1795*

You in a late memorial mentioned that you were desirous of a settlement of this State, and desired that a mode might be laid down, by which you might satisfactorily keep up your intercourse

It is therefore announced to you by the excellent wisdom of the late Peshwa that His Highness the Peshwa having departed this life to the celestial regions, it became necessary to settle the Government, and preserving the currency of the name of the late Peshwa to continue the Mace of his Highness Nana Saheb (i.e. Ballajee Row, grandfather of the late Peshwa) In this case if an adoption of one of the sons of the late Dada Saheb (Ragonaut Row) should be made, he could not, according to the Shaster, be the son, of the widow and they (the sons of Ragoba) keeping in mind past differences would not agree with the chiefs, Ministers and Civil Officers Therefore, by the advice of the great chiefs, etc and the absolute Minister and the Civil Officers etc. of this Serkar, it has been resolved—That I (the widow) taking an adopted child, the Minister should take charge of the settlement of the Government. Thus has it been agreed In friendship it has been communicated to you, dated 9th Jemadal Oual 1196 Soor Sun, or 22nd November 1795

**No. 271**—Palmer writes an important and almost prophetic letter offering his views on the possible consequences of the the Peshwa's death both in the South and the North. He also discusses how best the British can profit by the situation.

FROM—MAJ. PALMER,  
TO—CHARLES MALET.

*Futtughur, 28th November 1795.*

Dear Sir,

Since my last address to Mr Uhthoff of the 7th instant, I have been favored with the letters of that gentleman.

The intelligence of the fatal accident to the Peshwa was brought to me by my Dawk in ten days from Jaumgaum This melancholy event has scarcely more surprized me than the hesitation of the Minister to

proclaim the next of kin. It seems to be now inevitable that Badgy Rhow must be excluded, or Nana fall.

I should in such a juncture as the present expect to see a struggle between the Brahmin and Rajpoot\* interests if the great chieftains of the latter caste were not entirely guided by Bramin counsellors.

The interests and security of our nation in India appear to me to be materially involved in the influence which may predominate in the new government at Poona.

If there should be a competition, foreign powers are likely to have a share in deciding it, in which case it will not perhaps be politic or safe for us to remain indifferent spectators, but you must better understand what we have to hope or fear from the present important crisis than I do, that it would be presumption in me further to obtrude my opinion on the subject.

I can entertain no doubts of the good effect of your presence at Poona, if considerations of justice and policy should induce our Government to take an active part in the settlement of the Mahratta state, and shall sincerely rejoice to see you again instrumental in the acquisition of great public advantages.

The death of the Peshwa has created some alarm at the Maratta government in this quarter and has induced some cautionary measures, as the necessary detention of Dowlut Rhow in the Deccan with so large a part of the force of Hindostan, is likely to encourage the independent Rajahs to resistance, either by withholding their contributions or by arms. No symptoms of commotion whatever have yet appeared, though I have little doubt but that they will be produced by the first intelligence of commotions in the Deccan.

I must (much?) doubt whether ever the Mahrattas will effect a permanent establishment between the Nurbudda and the Jumna; there are obstacles which if properly applied to would be insurmountable, and it will always be in our power to bring them forward when our interest or security make it necessary.

The present operations of Dowlut Rhow's army seem directed to no further object than the immediate means of subsistence, for the obtaining of which they have more reliance on the contributions to be expected from the Rajpoot princes than on their own revenues.

M. DeBoigne has for some time past declared his determination to retire, but has so frequently postponed the period, that I am persuaded he has no serious intention to do so. His departure would make a great alteration in the arrangement and respectability of the corps under his commands and very materially diminish the power and influence of Dowlut Rhow's government.

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\* Meaning Maratha

No. 272—This paper mentions the provision of 25,000 Rs per month for Bajraos' father and his family

*Translation of a note received from Gunput Rao, Palmer's agent at Poona*

*Poona, 29th November 1795.*

I delivered the answer with which you charged me to Balloo Tantia, who replied,—“That what you said was just, but that you ought to distinguish with the eye of justice which was right and which wrong. And relative to his assent for mentioning to Nana what has passed, you should be in no hurry, for that he would do it himself

“But there is one point connected with treaties a communication of which by you to the Minister in the same manner as application was made for ascertainment on the point of adoption, would be proper and applicable to the times Viz “That on a settlement about the late Ragoba it was agreed that Rupees 25,000 per month should be paid him by the Peshwa's Serkar, that he should meet with no trouble, and remain with Tukojee Holcar. This is inserted as they (the Poona Government) have now sent the sons of Ragoba to the fort of Juncer and intend to send them from thence to a fort in the Concan. It may therefore be represented by you that thus it is inserted in the treaty and thus are they acting Let it be accounted for”

Further particulars I shall have the honor of communicating in person tomorrow

No. 273—This paper mentions that Daulatrao Sindia did not acquiesce in the plan of Nana Fadnis for setting aside the claims of Bajrao.

*Translation of a note from Gunput Rao*

*Dated 30th November 1795.*

A note disclaiming acquiescence in an unjustifiable act was lately received from Dowlut Row Sindia to which Balloo Tantia by the Council of Ramjee Patell (the Sindia's Vakeel here) replied, that in the event of others having assented in an unjustifiable act his (Dowlut Row Sindia) not doing it would be to place himself in opposition to the whole and to draw on himself the bad name of all, which would be attended with various evils and great expense, and detention here would ensue. Therefore it was better to acquiesce. To this Dowlut Row Sindia's answer had been received, viz, “What you write is understood Let this chiefship flourish or be destroyed, acquiescence in an unjustifiable

act is on no account admissible and if they (Nana) do it, they have the power. Do you (Balloo Tantia) take leave and come, that I may march towards Hindostan for I will not visit Poona on this business." To this Balloo Tantia has this day replied in concert with Jeajee Buckshy in a letter to Bhow Buckshy

"You write, that notwithstanding all your persuasions Dowlut Row Sindea will not hearken thereto. Well, what does it signify? If this is his (Dowlut Row Sindea's) pleasure, take all the goods and evils into consideration, and providing fully for all from first to last, procure a letter from Dowlut Row Sindea and come here yourself. By the grace of God, whatever happens will be for the best."

It is to be seen what will take place on receipt of this letter.

True translation.

(Signed) J Uhthoff,  
Assistant

**No. 274**—Malet communicates to G. G. the weakness of Nana's move for an alien adoption.

FROM—C W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 14th December 1795.*

But having gone as far as on mature deliberation appears proper, to establish a respect for the gravity and consistency of our conduct with all parties, as far as matters have yet gone, and to reserve to you, Honb'le Sir, a perfect freedom of decision, with respect to enforcing my previous demand of a formal written authentication of the alien adoption, or of complying with the Durbar's proposal of public declaration; as also of advancing the still more important claim to a solemn recognition of our treaties by the new Peshwa, whoever he may be, with or without the introduction of the chieftains previous to the important measure of formal acknowledgment, I have resolved to confine my answer merely to saying that I saw no reason to alter my requisition.

Under favor of this last message from the Durbar, rumours have been circulated of our acquiescence in the intended adoption, which seems a part of the Minister's system of gaining some by making them believe the accession of others. But notwithstanding all the art and industry that have been employed on this occasion, it does not appear that his embarrassments are at an end. Many points remain yet to be

adjusted with Dowlut Row Sindea, Tuckojee Holcar and Pursaram Bhow. The difficult task of lulling their mutual jealousies also seems unaccomplished, for Dowlut Row's ministers are, on various and artful pretences, strengthening themselves by drawing small parties from Jamgaum. Tuckojee Holcar is doing the same, and the Minister, I am informed, has ordered the cavalry at grazing quarters to rendezvous at Poona. Ragojee Bhonsla's general acquiescence in what the Minister might think advisable, is held insufficient, and his special assent to the Minister's mode of adoption is required. To all these difficulties, it is said, are added the terrors of the almost infant widow of the deceased Peshwa, who has shewn so great a disinclination to the perilous part assigned her on this occasion, as to have induced the Minister to seclude her from intercourse with any but his confidential adherents.

Thus surrounded with dangers and difficulties, reports, probably exaggerated, reach me of the extreme disquietude of the Minister and that, dissatisfied with all the children that have been brought him from the Kokun, he has expressed a desire of placing his own brother-in-law on the vacant Musnud, and that this is to be done quickly.

The whole state of affairs here at present is so extraordinary, that though the communication of some leading traits seems requisite, yet I cannot even venture a conjecture on their probability.

I have just learnt from Balloo Tantea through Gunput Rae that he (Balloo Tantea) has demanded leave to return to his Master at Jamgaum, whence Dowlut Row Sindea is impatient to march towards Hindostan; that they are discontented with Nana's conduct and should not have temporized with him as they have, could they have placed any reliance on our countenance, the weight of which they would have used to bring Nana to reason in such manner, as would have been secure to him and satisfactory to us.

No. 275—Palmer writing to the G. G. comments on the subject of succession to the Peshwaship and infers that the British interests would not suffer whatever happens.

FROM—MAJ PALMER,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE.

*Futtughur, 15th December 1795*

Honourable Sir,

The enclosed copies of two letters which I have this day received from my Muttusuddy at Poona appearing to me to contain intelligence which throws some light on the motives and views of Dowlut Rhow Sindea and the other chieftains of the Mahratta state in departing from the regular rule of succession to the Peshwaship and furnishing a precedent for making that office elective, I forward them in the hope that they may prove of some utility towards your forming a judgment of the consequences



which may be expected from this new and extraordinary proceeding, and of the effects which it may produce on the interests or security of the Company as well as on the general tranquillity of the Deccan and Hindostan

I shall be much concerned if my absence should be the cause of any reserve in the communication of Balloo Tantia, I am persuaded that the diffidence which he expresses of Sir Charles Malet, arises only from the constitutional caution of a Mahratta where he wants experience and that it will be removed on receiving information from me of the entire confidence which subsists between Sir Charles and myself, of the conformity of our sentiments on all points which can affect the interests of our employers

If Balloo Tantia's declaration is sincere, the acquiescence of Dowlut Row in the change of succession is not cordial, and it is far from improbable both he and Holkar have only consulted the relief of their immediate pecuniary wants by a temporary compliance with the views of Nana Furnavees, and these chiefs will in all likelihood be disposed to unite with any power who may find it necessary or expedient to assert the claim of Badjy Rhaw. But be this as it may, the strong measure of deviating from the line of hereditary succession is likely to render the Mahratta Government so weak and unsettled, as to be a better security for its conciliatory and peaceable conduct towards us than any partiality or attachment which the house of Ragoba may be supposed to entertain for us. On this side of India at least I am pretty confident that during the precarious state of authority which the new order of things will produce, a spirit of opposition and resistance will be exerted by the ancient chiefs of Hindostan, which will fully occupy the strength and resources of Sindia's Government and leave nothing to apprehend for the perfect tranquillity of the Company and Vizier's possessions from that quarter

A vague report has been brought from Auiangabad to Ogeine of the death of Nabob Nizam Ally Khan

Mr D Boigne the Commander of Dowlut Rhaw Sindia's regular infantry, is said to be dangerously indisposed

**No. 276**—Jealousy between Nana and Sindhia's ministers is reported to the G. G.

FROM—MR. C. W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 18th December 1795.*

Strong symptoms of jealousy mark the intercourse between Nana and the Sindian Ministers. They never attend the Durbar but with a large escort of horse and foot. Their retinue has been lately greatly increased by parties from Jamgaum under various pretences; and Balloo

Tantea is importunate for leave to depart on the plea of providing for the alleged pecuniary exigencies of his master's Government, the extreme urgency of which it seems Nana's object to increase. There is also ground to suspect, that he is engaged in intrigues with Ballabyhe the daughter of the late Patell, whose son might be occasionally made an instrument of embarrassment, and with Abha Chitnaveese, Balloo Tantea's predecessor in the Sindean ministry, which are extremely obnoxious to the present administration of that chiefship. Thus circumstanced, strong guards are advanced every night to the skirts of the city in the direction of the Sindean minister's encampment.

Having omitted to accompany the Durbar's late verbal communication with the remark that occurred, I have now the honour to enclose it

No. 277—Palmer forwards to the G. G. his comments on the attitude of Sindia towards the succession to the Peshwaship

FROM—MAJOR PALMER,  
TO—SIR JOHN SHORE

*Futtughur, 19th December 1795.*

Conceiving that in the present arduous struggle for the power and authority of the Mahratta Empire, you will deem material every information tending to exhibit the character and sentiments of Dowlut Row Sindia, who is likely to act so conspicuous a part in this great contest, I take the liberty to forward a copy of a note received this day from my Muttasuddy attending Balloo Tantie, and who is confidentially trusted by that minister and other principal servants from long experience of his ability and discretion.

The declaration made by Dowlut Row is quite consistent with all the accounts which I have heard of his spirit and firmness, and a knowledge of his possessing these qualities will probably encourage the avowed opposition of other chieftains of the Mahratta state to the designs of the Minister and engage the assistance and support of any foreign power which may suppose its interest or security inseparable from the cause of Badjy Rhow.

No. 278—Palmer recommends one Ganpatrao to the notice of Malet. He was an agent of Palmer who had accompanied Mahadji Sindia to the Deccan. He sent regular and reliable news to Palmer, who in concert with Malet designed measures to utilise the Maratha crisis towards furthering British interests.

FROM—MAJOR PALMER,  
TO—CHARLES MALET.

*Futtughur, 20th December 1795.*

Since my last of the 28th ultimo I have been favored with your several letters conveying duplicates of your public correspondence.

I shall experience the greatest satisfaction if the attendance of Gunput Roy at Poona in the present very critical state of that empire and the consequent cares and difficulties of your station, should facilitate your acquiring any useful knowledge of the important objects which must occupy your anxious attention. I believe you may safely rely upon his zeal and fidelity. I gave him instructions on his going to Poona with the late Mahajee Sindia to obey every order which you might give him without any reference to me. The testimonies of approbation which you and Mr Uhthoff have given me of his conduct entitle him to my best support and I have encouraged him to rely upon it.

I think with you that some public advantages may result from the communication of your dispatches to the Resident or other officer at Benares in charge of the Political Department and have imparted my opinion to Mr Cherry.

I have the pleasure to forward copies of my last addresses to the Governor-General. they will convey to you so little information that it is with reluctance I trouble you with them. I observe with pleasure, that the diffidence alluded to of Ballooba Tantia's entering into unreserved intercourse with you, is removed without his requiring any assurances from me of the perfect coincidence of our views and sentiments in the interests of our employers.

If Dowlut Rhow adheres to his declaration of opposing at all risks the unjust designs of the Minister in the succession to the Paishwaship, it may produce the total separation of the Government of Hindostan from its dependance on the Mahratta Empire, an event which would occasion an important change in the political interests both on this side of India and in the Deccan.

The sentiments expressed by the young chief do him great honour and, if they are sincere, cannot fail to introduce him with great eclat in the important part which he has to sustain.

**No. 279**—Malet communicates to the Governor of Bombay the increasing tension between Nana and others at the Court of Poona.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—THE HONOURABLE JONATHAN DUNCAN, ESQUIRE.

*Poona, 2nd January 1796*

I beg you to accept my thanks for your favour of the 30th which reached me last night. I have signified your assumption of the Government of Bombay to Behroo Punt, the person through whom all my business is conducted with this Court, and which appears to me the only mode in which during the present dissolution of the Peshwaship and non-acknowledgement of an head, it can be properly announced.

I shall regulate my answer to the last message from the Durbar on the Angrian business, which is now submitted to your notice, by your intimation of the present non-effective state of your force to take a just satisfaction for such flagrant violations of treaty. But while I lament that such just resentment should be delayed, permit me to observe, that it might probably be effectually taken, until more effectual means offered, by stationing a cruizer or two to block up the port of Colaba, and stop the predatory excursions of their cruizers, so obnoxious to the commerce of your port.

The ministers of Doulut Raw Sindia, who had assembled here with the other chiefs to form a congress to settle the succession to the Peshwaship, marched from this place on their return to their master the 30th ultimo not entirely with the acquiescence of Nanna Furnayees. Tokkojee Holcar's departure is likewise talked of, as was for some time Pursaram Bhou's, but the intention of the latter is said to be suspended by the importunate solicitations of the embarrassed Minister, whose difficulties, you will naturally conceive, must be greatly increased by the separation of the chiefs, without settling the important point for which they were assembled; thereby leaving the State in a predicament of dubiety, and the minister's acts liable to be disputed by whoever may think proper to have assumed that task.

**No. 280**—Malet conveys a strong protest to the Court of Directors against his being superseded in the appointment to the Governorship of Bombay.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS, LONDON.

*Poona, 8th January 1796.*

I have this day received a repetition of the Governor-General's instructions, to avoid all interference in the various views of the different branches of this State on the present critical occasion. In the course of which he expresses an apprehension of my reflections and conduct having a different tendency. His letter is too long to prepare a copy by this opportunity, as I am told the vessels are to be dispatched the 10th instant, but I have the honor to repeat to you the assurance I have given him, in answer to the above letter, that neither is he, nor shall he be, more committed by me, than he was the first moment of the dissolution of the Peshwaship.

No particular occurrence has happened from the date of the last of the enclosed letters, except the death of Jeajee Bukshey, on the 4th instant, one of Doulut Row Sindia's principal ministers, which I esteem a severe loss to that chiefship at this crisis.

I cannot close this address, without expressing my extreme concern to you and the Honourable Court, that the same principles of action which have, through the long period of near twenty-six years, stimulated my best exertions, in the service of the Honourable Company and my country, should have now forced me to the resignation, signified in the enclosed copy of my address of the 2nd instant to the Governor-General since, having failed in my best endeavours, while unchecked by even a doubt of the approbation of my employers, it would be dishonest to burthen them with the palsied energies of a mind, that has discovered its imbecility in the supersession of those who alone can appreciate their servants' merits. I shall at least, honourable Sir, have the consolation of quitting, as I have passed through the Honourable Company's service without reproach.

**No. 281**—Malet reports to the Governor-General the state of things at Poona mentioning a report spread by Nana's adherents that the British were supporting his cause.

FROM—C. W MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

*Poona, 18th January 1796.*

The appearances of alarm and disquiet seem to increase at this place. Some troops have moved out of the town since my last address and taken post on a pass of the river leading to Holkar's encampment, and large bodies, I am told, are every night advanced towards the same quarter in different directions.

By the papers of intelligence from Doulut Row Sindera's camp, it appears, that his troops forage in the Peshwa's districts, and that his tents were pitched in a northern direction on the 15th instant.

The solicitations from the sons of Ragoba are mixed with expressions of dread of our joining in the views of the Minister of subverting their rights, which it is now intimated are not totally unsupported, and that they are not destitute of friends even amongst those charged with their custody.

On the other hand, there is every reason to think that Pursaram Bhow has at length assented to Nana's measures, to which he has been very recently reconciled by large pecuniary and territorial grants, whence arises another proof of Nana's falsity in announcing to me the unanimous acquiescence in the alien adoption, which is not at present mentioned.

In this very doubtful state of affairs the Minister's adherents are anxious to strengthen their superior's cause, by circulating reports of his connection with our Government, in consequence of which rumours are spread

of troops being soon expected from Bombay, for which purpose large sums have been remitted to that place and Calcutta.

Though these reports may appear ridiculous and worthy of no attention to us, yet, among people whose principles of action and modes of thinking are founded on occasional expediency, they are not ill calculated to promote the object of the circulators

I am informed, that Ragojee Bhonsla has sent a large force under Itul Pundit against Gurra Mundela which has long been an object of anxious desire to the Naugpore Government, and for the acquisition of which it may deem the present juncture favourable, though it will probably produce hostilities with the brothers Balla and Gungadur

No. 282—Ganpatrao, Palmer's agent at Poona, reports to Malet the negotiations going on between Nana and Doulatrao Sindia for coming to a settlement about the Peshwaship.

FROM—GUNPUT RAE,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET'S MUNSHY.

*Poona, 23rd January 1796*

On the 6th of Rejb (17th January) on which day Doulut Row Sindea entered his tents, Ganpat Rao had an audience of Balloo Tantea, Bhow Bukshy, and Doondaba, and made known what he was charged with by the Resident (message of the 5th instant) They in reply observed, that the death of Jeajee Bukshy had given them great uneasiness which had caused their introducing the word Sherulut (concert), otherwise their original word neutrality was still what they laid stress on, that at present they were preparing to march to the Gunga Godavery, and after their arrival there would communicate what might be resolved on Bhou Bukshy observed, that the affair would be terminated according to the original plan (in favor of the sons of Ragoba), that they did not intend to proceed from the Gunga towards Hindostan until the affair was brought to one point That they should halt there till the month of Cheyt (April), that Nanna Furnavees had desired Ramjee Patell might be sent to him, and what was agreed on would appear, and that at present he (Gunput Rao) should write to the Resident that in consequence of scarcity of forage and water, it was resolved on to move from thence (Jamgaum)

My good Sir, the appearance of things here is very extraordinary At some times they talk haughtily, at others meekly; upon the whole, the death of Jeajee Bukshy, the departure of Deboigne, and the great arrears due to the army, give them great uneasiness, and they are likewise thrown into embarrassment by their declarations and designs being known to Nana. They want such a support as might afford money and

force, without which, from present appearances, it will be difficult for them to effect any thing. God knows what will happen. Ramjee Patell has received his leave to depart and will probably set out today or tomorrow. If Nana will supply money, they (Doulut Rou Sindea) may remain here; if not, they will halt till they hear from Ramjee Patell. In the interim, they are making applications to all quarters, but a powerful adjunct does not appear and alone they can do nothing. This is cause of great anxiety.

**No. 283**—Malet mentions to the Governor-General the movements of troops near Poona and Nana's plans.

FROM—Mr C. W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

*Poona, 25th January 1796.*

Troops are daily entering their tents in the neighbourhood of the city, but the only chief that has yet quitted the town is Narro Punt Chukkurdao. Baba Fulkia is talked of, also Punsaram Bhow, but the latter, it is said, wishes to send his son and waive marching in person but with Nana Furnavees.

Tukojee Holkar's camp is also increasing by the arrival of his troops in small bodies from their foraging stations. Nana is taking advantage of the financial derangement of this chiefship to introduce his own creatures into its administration, and a negotiation for placing Abba Chitnavees at the head of it and re-establishing under his management the Holkar's superiority in Hindostan, is said to be one of the engines that he is now employing to alarm the Sindean Ministry into coincidence in his measures, though at present no specific object is assigned to them.

**No. 284**—Malet advises the Governor of Bombay how to treat the application which Nana had made to the latter for British support. Malet deprecates Nana's iniquitous designs.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

*Poona, 29th February 1796*

The enclosed extract of my address of this date to the Governor-General will acquaint you with Nana Fadnis' having addressed you a letter

in which act your knowledge of the state of affairs at this place and the insidious arts lately used by him to diffuse an opinion of his close concert with our Government in his iniquitous designs, added to the circumstances mentioned in the enclosed extract, will prepare you for circumspection in your reply and probably induce you to think with me, that his gratitude would have been better shewn in a return of civility and good offices than in vague professions, and that the sincerity of it would have been more clearly conveyed by immediate answer during the zenith of his power under the late Peshwa to the Governor-General's letters announcing your appointment, than at a season of such doubtful aspect as to render his future prospects gloomy and precarious and when he may feel an advance to conciliation less grating through a quarter where he has the plea of returning thanks than through me to whom (thro' the channel by which he was introduced to your good offices) he is conscious of having misbehaved.

Permit me, therefore, honourable Sir, to suggest that (tho' the present letter is sent you somewhat irregularly through a private channel and on a personal subject, however difficult it may be to abstract publicity from such personages as you and N F) in preservation of the respectability of my representative character, you transmit your answer through me and I trust it would be no disparagement to your civilities to N F's age if in support of my official weight you were to mention that the opportunity of gratifying your inclinations on that occasion had been furnished by my introduction and recommendations and that you doubted not but from his present professions, ground would be afforded for the perseverance of your successors in the same kindness by his (N F's) future attention to a reciprocity of good offices on all occasions and especially in the correct conduct of his agents at Benares

Badjirou and Chimna Appa the two sons of Raghunath Rao entered then tents on then journey to this place on the 25th instant, leaving Emrut Rou then adopted brother at Juneer and were to be at Cullian (Chakan?) 9 coss from that place yesterday. It is reported that they are to come by the way of Tolapore at the conflux of the Bhimra and Indranee and that N F will make an excursion to meet them, but on these points I have no authentic information.

I have the honor to acquaint you that the rule observed by the Governor General, the Governors of Madras and hitherto of Bombay in corresponding with this Court has been to transmit their sealed Kurietas with copies and translations to me and to close their letters with a general reference to me.



**No. 285**—Malet reports to the Governor General an account of the meeting of Nana with Bajirao and his brother and the increasing tension between Nana and Daulatrao Sindhia.

FROM—C. W. MALET,  
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 7th March 1796*

Very early in the morning of the 5th instant, Nanna Furnavees proceeded, at the time appointed by the astrologers, from the city, toward the young Princes' encampment, accompanied by Shumsheer Bhadur, a boy about twelve years of age, the son of Ally Bhadur, Appa Bulwunt, Behroo Pundit, and some other Bramins of consequence.

On reaching the tents about 5 a.m. being joined by Pursaram Bhow, he sat down under an outer canopy, and directed his companions to be introduced to the young Princes, during which messages passed between him and them. The auspicious moment of his interview, about half-past five, being at length announced by the astrologer, who attended for the purpose, Nanna Furnavees, accompanied by Pursaram Bhow, Appa Bulwunt, Behroo Pundit, and some others, entered the audience tent, and approaching the sons of Ragonath Row, fell at their feet, being a common act of obeisance between persons in such relative situations, and was raised by Badjerou, who placed him on his left hand, next to Shumsheer Bhadur.

It has attracted some notice, that Nanna Furnavees was on this occasion attended by the Vakeels of Ragojee Bhonsla, though no agent or connexion of the other great chiefs of the empire were present.

It does not appear that anything but form and compliment passed at this interview, from which Nanna returned to town about 7 a.m. The sons of the late Hurry Punt Farkia were prevented attending on this occasion, by the death of their elder brother Dadjee the preceding day.

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My last advices from Dowlut Row Sindia's Camp mention that the clamours of the army had been quieted by a payment of four months arrears to the most necessitous part of the troops. That all the women of Dowlut Row Sindia's family had been happily dispatched notwithstanding their objections to Burhanpore, from whence Perron's Brigade was advancing by forced marches. That the intrigues of Nana to seduce the army and even the women of Dowlut Row Sindia's family had been detected and obviated; and that acrimonious expostulation and recrimination had passed between Baloo Tantea and Nana's agent residing with Dowlut Row in the character of the Peshwa's Vackeel

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No. 286—Malet sends to the Directors a full report of the occurrences at the Court of Poona in connection with Nana's plans for finding a successor to the deceased Peshwa

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS, LONDON

*Poona, 13th March 1796.*

I had the honor to address you under the 8th January and should have repeated my respects by the Fly's late despatch to Suez but was prevented embracing that opportunity by Jonathan Duncan's non-acquaintance with the usage of advising me of it, but on my having made it known to him he had noticed to me an intended despatch to Bussora by which this is meant to convey you an hasty deduction of events here since my last

Soon after that period the symptoms of dissension between D R. S and N F became daily less equivocal and were followed by the former's taking the field from Jamgaum on 17th January contrary to the wishes and counsel of N F, to whom however he thought proper to account for his motion in a northern direction by the deranged state of his affairs in Hindostan and the express designs of Zuman-Sha and his desire of moving to the Gunga Godavery to give weight to his interests in that quarter and to improve the situation of his army in point of water and forage About the same time D R. S's ministers confidentially advised me of their master's favourable intentions to the sons of R. R and utter rejection of an alien adoption and that they should not quit the Deccan until their object of placing Badjirou on the musnud was effected, all which communications were occasionally accompanied with solicitations of pecuniary aid or mediatory good offices on our part to which I replied in the general terms of neutrality prescribed by the Governor General

In consequence of D R S's movement encampments were immediately formed in the neighbourhood of this city and every appearance of jealous and hostile preparation increased daily, during which not a whisper was heard of the alien adoption

Amidst these threatening appearances I received secret solicitations of aid from the young Princes and advances from Govinrhoow Guykwar to act, if encouraged by me in concert with the Governor General in the settlement of the succession, all which I treated with the same reserve that I had observed toward D R S

In this dubious state of affairs I was surprized by the sudden and apparently precipitate march of P. Bhou on the 14th February which was soon after accounted for by an official message from the Minister intimating that it having been deemed expedient to bring the sons of R R to Poona, P. B. with some other persons (amongst whom was B. Pt. the channel of our business with the Durbar), had been deputed

to Junner the place of their confinement 45 miles north of Poona, for that purpose.

In the meantime D R S had reached the Gunga on the 7th February and signified to N F his unreserved demand of the establishment of Badjirou, the eldest son of R R, on the Musnud which, and the dread of measures that might be taken in support of such a demand, may be supposed to have produced the hasty despatch and rapid march of P. Bhou, who reached Junnar the day after leaving Poona and being followed by troops as fast as they could be collected, and having overcome the apprehensions of the young Princes by solemnly pledging his personal honor for their safety, prevailed on Badjirou and Chimna Appa (Emut Rou R. R's adopted son being left at Junnur), to quit their confinement and to enter their tents on the 25th February when proceeding by slow marches, they arrived and encamped in the environs of this city on the 3rd March

On the 5th N F. paid his respects to them. In the evening great preparations were made for their entering the city and N F proceeded again to camp to accompany them, but this intention was suddenly abandoned in consequence, it is now generally supposed, of B P's not being perfectly satisfied of N F's intentions toward them and of his own resolution not to trust them from under his own protection until their safety and the enthronement of the elder were firmly provided for. The absence of D R S has also been assigned as a pretence for this change of measures, as it was requisite that he should be present on the important event of their publick entrance and enthronement

But as it appears from D R S's subsequent communications to me that N F's whole conduct in this affair has been without concert or consultation with him, in consequence of which he (D R S) is seriously alarmed for the safety of the young Princes and is marching to their support with all possible speed at the head of his whole force, a natural inference arises that by carrying them into town, N F intended to place them more immediately under his own power and probably to place the youngest, as alleged against him by D R S, on the musnud under whose minority he might have secured the continuation of his own regency

That this was his view is further corroborated by an advance made to me on the 7th instant, which breach of his late extraordinary and in many instances very exceptionable coldness and reserve betrays a degree of alarm unaccountable to me, but in the failure of his design to get possession of the persons and power of the young Princes and the future precariousness of his authority incident to such a failure.

Having found time to prepare copy of my address to the Governor General of the 11th instant detailing the issue of this advance, permit me to refer you to it for a particular description of the present very critical state of affairs at this Court, in which you may rest assured that my conduct

shall (as hitherto it has been) be invariably studied to impress all parties with respect for those principles of consistency and moderation which have so long characterized our politics and particularly that of the administration of your present Governor-General

The perplexed and gloomy appearance of things at this Court is increased by the dangerous state of the Nizam's health who was afflicted with a severe paralytic stroke on the 25th ultimo that deprived him of the use of one side. He was much in the same state as when struck to the 5th instant, the date of my last advices from Captain Roberts, and parties were then thought to be forming in favor of the Prince, Secander Jah and Feridoon Jah, His Highness's elder son Ali Jah having died soon after his unsuccessful rebellion<sup>†</sup>

Though appearances give room to think His Highness's designs were favourable to N F in the late parties at this Court, it is to be hoped that they were sufficiently ambiguous to give him a claim to the indulgence of the other party if ultimately successful

The Honourable Company's detachment from the Madras establishment has been employed by His Highness in the latter quarter, by which means compliance with the Governor General's wish of its return has been prevented

Notwithstanding the confusions in this Government the progress of the Mahratta arms is not suspended on the north, where the forces of D. R. S. have lately reduced the ancient Government and important fortress of Narwar, Mr. Deboigne who raised and organized Sindia's native infantry has lately resigned his command and retired to the Vezeer's territory

T Holcar remains encamped in this neighbourhood but neither his force or abilities give him that weight which seems requisite for preserving the respectability of his family during so interesting a crisis, in which N F has certainly exposed himself to marked resentment in first seducing the Mahratta chiefs to a collusion in his iniquitous designs of an alien adoption, and, when forced from that object, in attempting to introduce the rightful heirs without admitting them to the smallest participation.

Ragojee Bhosla does not appear to have taken an active part in the late events here but is supposed to have been in a good understanding with D R S, but his force is now principally employed in wresting the strong fort of Gurra-Mundla from the Mahratta chiefs Balla and Gungadurj with the assent of this Court, frequent orders having been ineffectually issued by this Durbar to those chiefs for its surrender to him. I have pleasure in adding that he has lately signified his assent

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\* He poisoned himself on 22nd November 1795. † Balaji Govind and Gangadhar Govind.

to the Governor General's application for the passage of a body of Bengal troops through Cuttuck to Madras which, however, had been rendered nugatory by the previous change of the intention

It may not be unsatisfactory to the Honourable Court to know that in the event now certain of Badjrou's succession to the Peshwaship, I have every claim personally and officially to his favourable consideration from the circumspection with which I treated N. F.'s annunciation of the alien adoption and from its having fallen to my lot during my residence at Cambay to promote the escape of his father Rogobah from the ministerial army after his defeat in Guzerat in the year 1775, his sense of which service was ever after thankfully acknowledged and manifested by the particular friendship of that Prince

**No. 287**—Malet proposes to mediate between the contending parties at the Court of Daulatrao Sindia.

FROM—C W MALET,

TO—THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS.

*Poona, 14th March 1796.*

Since dispatching my address of yesterday I have been honoured with the Governor General's answer to my application for permission to resign my ministry at this Court, which I take the liberty of submitting to your notice, and at the same time to acquaint you of the Governor-General's having granted me a latitude of employing my good offices at the requisition of D R S. in such a manner as may promise a good effect on the present contending parties, in the use of which I shall be guided by the desire which has invariably actuated me of promoting the honor of my country and the interests of my masters

**No. 288**—Malet informs the Governor General of the plans and intrigues of Nana who sought a shelter within British territory. He is reported to have paid a secret visit to Azim-ul-Omra, the Nizam's Minister in imprisonment at Poona, and to have paid money to seduce Sindia's troops.

FROM—C. W MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

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*Poona, 18th March 1796.*

On the 17th instant Badjirou moved his camp to within about two miles of this city, on which occasion all the Mankurries were introduced

to him, and several pieces of artillery moved from town to the camp, which was also joined by the different bodies encamped in the neighbourhood. It is likewise rumoured, that Nanna Funnavees will pitch his tent and reside in camp, but I have not heard anything from him on the subject.

Intelligence has reached me of Nana's having visited Azeem-ul-Omrah in a very secret manner during the night, which, if true, leads to a consideration of the train of connexion between Azeem-ul-Omrah and Secunder Jah, the latter's partiality for Monsi Raymond, that partizan's power at the Nizam's Court, his probable enmity to our Government, and the consequent obnoxiousness to our interests of the consolidation of such a party as would be established by such a combination at this Court and the Nizam's, but of which, the recent annihilation of Nana's design of supporting himself in the enthronement of Chimnaje, seems to remove the present danger.

Secret intelligence gives me reason to apprehend that Nana has not yet abandoned his insidious designs of subverting the Sindian Ministry by corrupting the army, in which nefarious undertaking he has, I am told, granted a latitude for the disbursement of twenty lacs of rupees through the agency of Appa Chitnavees, Ramjee Patell, Govin Pingleh and Baboo Row, the talents of the two last in such intrigues having been amply proved by the tenor of the latter's vakeelship from the Nizam with the late Sindia and by the former's conduct during his vakeelship with the Nizam and the consequent war between that Prince and this State. Sindia's ministers have at least the advantage of knowing the temper of their antagonists and the nature of the dangers they have to encounter.

From Behroo Pundit, who has just left me, I learn that Nana conscious of his inequality to contend with the Sindian power is preparing, in the event of Govin Pingleh's mission proving fruitless, to withdraw under pretence of going to Sittarah to prepare the Rajah for the reception of the new Paishwa, for which purpose, he is to enter his tents tomorrow morning, which Behroo Pundit says is with the assent and advice of Badjee Row, who promises, on Sindia's arrival, to effect a reconciliation between him and Nana.

From Behroo Pundit's conversation, however, I collect, that Nana has not implicit confidence in his promise and that he may probably provide for his future security by taking up his residence in some hill fort, though Behroo Pundit seemed very desirous of knowing how far he might be deemed secure by taking refuge in Velas a village belonging to his family, in the Company's district of Fort Victoria to which, I replied, that I should be able to give a satisfactory answer, if applied to by Badjee Row.

In the course of conversation, I learnt, that Nana is urgent with Behroo Pundit to accompany him, which, notwithstanding his infirmities, seems to be his intention, and that Nana is desirous of carrying Azeem-Ul-Omrah with him, both of which circumstances look as though he wished to attach to his retreat the respectability of an understanding with our Government and that of Hyderabad

**No. 289**—Malet communicates to the Governor of Bombay Nana's flight from Poona and his request for British protection at Velas.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

*Poona, 20th March 1796.*

Honourable Sir,

Since writing you on the 17th I have been favoured with your letters of the 14th and 16th. The letter for N F enclosed in the latter shall be delivered the first good opportunity. At present every thing is in rather too confused a state, for in consequence of the apprehension of Sindia's approach, he (N F) entered his tents yesterday morning (having during the night sent off the women of his own and all his adherents' families to strongholds toward the Cokun) under the ostensible pretence of going to Sattara to prepare the Raja for the Peshwa's reception but in fact to provide for his personal security, in the prosecution of which he desired my sentiments on the practicability of his being received and protected by the Company in a little village\* belonging to his family in the District of Fort Victoria, which is a pretty clear proof of the justice of my surmise on his late letter to you. Without giving him any direct answer on this subject I advised the avoidance of precipitation and signified my hope that the embassy to Sindia would produce the desired accommodation in which he might, agreeable to his request, be assured of my good offices. Accordingly I had the pleasure of communicating to him yesterday favourable answers from Sindia's ministers to my letters on the subject and he having received similar accounts from his vakeel, there is today an appearance of this precipitate measure being suspended.

Behroo Punt the Minister of this Durbar through whom my business with the state is conducted, assures me that the five boats mentioned in my last are laden only with his and some of his friends' private property. I shall therefore in case of need grant him a letter to the Resident of Fort Victoria to permit of their passing. My last advices from Sindia's Camp are dated 18th, when it was expected Nanna's agent would be dismissed with a vakeel from D. R S to settle matters, and in the interim it was expected he, Sindia, would halt on the Bhimra 10 coss hence. The Brigade under Perron has joined

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\* i e, Velas.

No. 290—Malet expatiates on the intrigues of Nana against Sindia. This graphic description of the situation at Poona conveys an idea of how all parties came to look upon the British power as saviours. The description given by Malet of Bajirao's features is interesting.

FROM—C W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 25th March 1796.*

The agitation of these points having caused the putting off my visit for that day, it was fixed for the ensuing, when about 2 o'clock I received a visit from Behroo Pundit, who acquainted me, that the confusion of Nanna Furnavees's departure on the evening of the 21st had prevented his acquainting me with that measure, which had been taken with Badjirou's acquiescence, ostensibly to prepare the Raja for his approaching investiture, but, in fact, to give time for a reconciliation being effected between him and Doulut Rou Sindia by Badjirou, that Nana had intended to take Azim-ul-Omra with him, who had prepared accordingly, but had been subsequently stopped by order of Badjirou. Behroo Pundit assured me, that Nana on departing had advised Badjirou, should he find any difficulty in effecting a firm reconciliation between him and Doulut Rou Sindia, to have recourse to my mediation, and that it was he (Nanna) who had particularly advised my immediate meeting with Badjirou. Behroo Pundit expressed considerable personal alarm from the arrival of Sindia, with a request that in case of danger I would grant him every protection in my power for his person and property, which I promised. He said that my visit was absolutely necessary that afternoon, as Doulut Rou Sindia's would take place the ensuing day, and the next Badjirou would enter the city. He said that in the confusion that had ensued since my friendly communication of the 19th instant, Nana Furnavees had only had time to mention it cursorily to Badjirou, without any effect having been produced. After acquainting me that Madarou Ramchander, the governor of the city and a chief of considerable nominal rent in the empire, would be sent to meet and conduct me to Badjirou's tents, he departed and about 5 in the evening a person came to advise me that Madarou Ramchander was waiting for me. I accordingly proceeded, with the gentlemen etc. of my party, and having met Madarou about half way, was preceded by him to Badjirou's tents, where I found Pursaram Bhow, Behroo Pundit, Baba Furkea, and several other Bramin and Maratta personages of rank. After a little time Badjirou and his brother Chimna Appa entered, when we went through the usual ceremony of embracing, and being seated, I expressed my happiness at seeing him, to which he made no reply. I remarked, he had long been exposed to the inconveniences of tents, and hoped he would soon enter his palace. He said he would let me know when resolved on. I repeated my wish



of a letter for you, Hon'ble Sir. He said he would write after his return from Sattara. I asked when he proposed going there. He replied, he would let me know when it was settled. Nothing further passed, and after sitting about three quarters of an hour I took my leave.

Badjirou is about 22 years of age. He seemed diffident and rather embarrassed, which is easily accounted for in his hitherto retired way of life. He is stout made, of a grave countenance and deportment with a physiognomy indicating rather the qualities of deliberative sense, than of energetic sensibility, but it would be presumptuous at present to form opinion of a mind, whose bent and powers have hitherto had no occasion of development.

About 9 the same evening a deputation waited on me from the young Prince with 1,000 Rupees, of which he begged my acceptance, but which I thought proper to decline with an assurance, that I was ambitious only of his favourable opinion, and of its exemplification in a kind remembrance and general attention to my representative character.

On the morning of the 24th Dowlut Row Sindea arrived, with six Battalions and part of his cavalry (having left Peiron's Brigade and the remainder of his cavalry about four cose off), and encamped on the river Moola, about two miles n w of Badjirou's Camp, and the same evening a meeting was held in the plain between the two camps, which seems to have been effected by dint of importunity on the part of Pursaram Bhow and those who conduct Badjirou's affairs, very much against the inclination of Dowlut Row's ministers, and as Badjerou entered Poona this morning before 4 o'clock with an intention, it is confidently reported, of proceeding (as above advised by Behroo Pundit) immediately to Sattara. All this precipitation appears to me part of an artful plan of avoidance of negotiation or settlement with Sindea, while, by implicating him in fruitless and hopeless procrastination, opportunities may be presented (particularly should he, by accompanying Badjerou southward toward Sattara, entangle himself in their numerous hill forts) of involving him in all the embarrassments of an unpaid licentious army led hither merely by golden hopes, which will soon be converted by disappointment into clamours and possibly sedition, the only way of obviating which seems boldly to follow up the decided line that has been lately adopted by getting possession of the young Paishwa's person or at all events preventing his proceeding to the southward, until previous satisfaction is given to his (Dowlut Row's) requisitions.

After Dowlut Row Sindea had gone through his meeting with Badjerou, my Munshy waited on him, and though late and the day had been a fatiguing one, was very graciously admitted to an audience, at which Bhow Bukshy entered much at large into the evil measures and intentions of Nana that had forced their master into his late measures; in the course

of which, he had experienced from me all the candour and fairness worthy of the friendship of the two states ; to which, Dowlut Row Sindea cordially assented. Having been complimented with a Keullat, he was then conducted to Balloo Tantea's tent, who expatiated in like manner, but with a great appearance of ingenuousness on the present state of affairs ; in the course of which, my munshy observed considerable solicitude for the future and rather an appearance of anxiety to extricate themselves than to persecute, notwithstanding their reasonable ground of complaint and resentment. In today's paper of intelligence from that quarter, I observe mention is made of an intention to levy a body of infantry for the Peshwa's service, which looks like an intention of securing their influence over his person and, if true, threatens a preclusion of reconciliation with Nana.

From the best view I have hitherto been able to take of the present perturbed state of affairs here, it appears to me, that Dowlut Row Sindea's grand object, in his late extraordinary exertion, after obviating Nana's insidious designs, has been to assert his claim to the merit of Badjee Row's establishment and thereon to advance on the late Minister a demand of liquidation of the great arrears due to him by Government, alleged to be upward of six crores. This object will, I apprehend, be greatly obstructed, if not totally frustrated by the decampment of Nana, after previously conveying away all his own private wealth, and that of the state, to numerous strongholds, commanded by his creatures\* ; so that, on his arrival, instead of meeting with the means of indemnification, he will, should he obstruct Badjerou's departure to Sattara, have to encounter the opposition of Pursaram Bhow and the insatiable pecuniary clamours of his own army.

Such a predicament may possibly produce proposals of accommodation to Nana, whose numerous emissaries (the chief of whom Govin Pingleh is still here) will in the interim, be actively employed in fomenting jealousies between the Sindean ministers and Pursaram Bhow and Badjerou's managers and in exciting every seed of sedition in Sindia's army, of which Nana will take such advantage as circumstances may suggest for the establishment of his power and party, either by negotiation with his rivals or by forming such connexions with the Nizam, in which however, the stoppage of Azim-ul-Omrah's departure will be a great disappointment for the southern chiefs, the Pritiniddy, the Rajah of Colapore, or even of Sittarah, as may place him above their enmity.

Hence it should seem that the Sindean ascendancy has not placed that party in perfect safety or rendered it invulnerable to the superior arts and resources of their Bramin antagonists, whose enmity is roused by the rude blow inflicted on the head of their leader Nana by the Sinovee ministers of Sindea.

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\* William Tone corroborates this statement

**No. 293**—Malet reports to the Governor of Bombay how Daulatrao controlled Bajirao and the situation at Poona.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

*Poona, 19th April 1796.*

D R S having late on the night of the 16th discovered reason to apprehend the sudden departure of Badjerou and his brother Chimna Appa to Sattarra without his privity, proceeded on the morning of the 17th instant with a strong body of cavalry and infantry, to his (B's) tents and signified his resolution of not departing until satisfaction was given him on his demand of excluding N F from all future power in the State and on several other important points of pecuniary and political requisition

After spending the whole of that day and the ensuing night in discussion and altercation during which Perron's Brigade (hitherto encamped some miles in the rear) had advanced by Sindia's orders and taken post advantageously on the skirts of Badjerou's camp, all his (Sindia's) demands were assented to and signed about 4 a m on the 18th by Badjerou under the guarantee of several other chieftains

We have now only to wait the effect of this strong measure on N F, who seems to have no alternative but of immediately supporting his cause and party by arms on the plea of the Keellat of Peshwaship not being yet granted and the imperfect character of the Peshwa without it, or of quitting the field to his more vigorous antagonists, in which case I have to recommend your treating with the utmost caution any disposition he may shew of sheltering himself under our protection, which agreeable to subsisting treaties cannot, I apprehend, be granted without the Peshwa's assent.

I have to request you will forward the accompanying letter for the Chairman of the Court of Directors at the earliest convenience

**No. 294** —Malet reports to the Court of Directors an account of the events at Poona, Nana's flight, Bajirao's arrival and Sindia's measures to control the situation.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS, LONDON.

*Poona, 21st April 1796.*

I have not yet learnt the effect of D. R. S.'s late strong measures on N. F which, I hear, it is the former's intention to follow up by the detachment of a strong force under some chieftains of consequence to keep Nana in awe and to demand the Keellat of Peshwaship from the Raja, and that letters will be despatched to the different powers of

Hindoostan advising the termination of N F's authority in this state and the consequent nullity of any future act, letter or application from him, and as the Nazim is suspected of a predilection for his (N's) party and supposed to have put a body of forces in motion at his instance and for his support, there is a talk of removing all doubt and apprehension from that quarter by the march of another detachment towards his Hss's frontier.

The late strong measure of D R S is by some supposed to have been undertaken in secret collusion with Badjerou and P Bhou, preferring a termination of the contest by such an expedient however apparently compulsory to the incurrence of all those miseries on themselves and the country, which threatened a longer adherence to the unreconcilable and procrastinatory plans of N F, the prosecution of which and their ruinous influence on Sindea's needy army must, abstracted from the reason now assigned of discovering Badjerou's intention of secretly withdrawing, have necessitated him in a very few days with or without concert with Badjerou, to have had recourse to force the only means he possessed of breaking through the political webs with which Nana was entangling him.

This much, however, is certain that very different consequences may be expected from his late coercive act in the degree of its being with or without concert with Badjerou and his principal counsellors, for as in the first case it may be expected to be definitively subversive of future influence and opposition of N, so in the latter the concealed enmity that will have been engendered and confirmed by it, may possibly encourage such an opposition on the part of Nana, as may give time for these new seeds of dissension to produce their beneficial fruits.

**No. 295**—This is a news-sheet presented to the Resident, describing the confusion and intrigues prevailing at Poona between the various parties.

*Report of Sir Charles Warre Malet's Munshy, Meer Fuhkur-ud-Deen.*

*Badjerou's Camp, 23rd April 1796, at night.*

I arrived here near Behroo Pundit's tents the evening of the 22nd, but as he was summoned to the Durbar and did not return till 10 p.m., I had no opportunity of conversing with him that night. On the 23rd, agreeable to your instructions, I resumed my applications for passports, to which he replied that he thought as the settlement of the Government was not yet completed, you had better defer your intentions, but that he would represent your wishes, and introduce me to make them known to Badjerou, whose answer I might make known to you. On the subject

of Doulut Row Sindia's late dhurna (of his silence regarding which, I made agreeable to your directions a friendly complaint), he said, that the delicacy of the times was so great, that either to write or to communicate any thing to friends was full of danger; so that he was remediless; but that now I might write to you that Sindia actually did perform the dhurna and gave a paper of demands, but that it was not returned to him signed but was promised to be, though suspended for the present by one or two articles not being assented to agreeable to his wish, Pursaram Bhow having engaged to settle and present him the articles completed in eight days (from the 18th instant), which is still in agitation, but not yet settled. It is Badjee Row's wish that Nana after his dismissal from the Ministerial functions should reside at Poona, to benefit by his advice in affairs of importance, but Sindia wishes him to reside unemployed at Minnolee on the Kistna, at Toanka on the Gunga Godavery, or at Benares, and that his adherents should be excluded from the management of affairs. Badjee Row claims that he should select and employ whom he pleases. The articles relative to the grant of a Jagheer and fort to Doulut Row and the establishment of his forces to be attached to the Paishwa's person and their Jaidaad are points yet unsettled, but are negotiating through Pursaram Bhow, for though on the day of the dhurna everything was agreed to, yet the modes were not settled. Sindia likewise objects to receiving the Rajah's Keellat through the agency of Nana, nor has it yet been despatched. Thus much Behroo Pundit's communication.

From other quarters, I learn that the dhurna was in collusion with Badjee Row and Pursaram Bhow, that Pursaram Bhow and Sindia are in concert, but as Sindia can place no reliance on Badjee Row's levity, he involves Pursaram Bhow as his security, and on the other hand Pursaram Bhow holds up Sindia *in terrorem* to awe Badjee Row. Behroo Pundit is Pursaram Bhow's confidential adviser. But there appears a general desire of sowing disagreements between Badjee Row and Sindia for the purpose of prosecuting private views and interests. Nana's adherents, viz., Baba Furkia, Govin Pingleh, Parchure etc., are in great alarm, others seem to be at their ease, nay desirous of Nana's expulsion. Baba Furkia yesterday made a kind of supplicatory visit to Sindia and his ministers, who gave him encouraging assurances. It is said Sindia's intentions are hostile to Govind Pingleh, and this day Trimbuck Row Purchora wanted to become a Sineasi (Derveish), but was prevented by Badjee Row. It is the intention of Sindia that Badjee Row should return to Poona, but the latter wishes not to return until invested with the Keellat. I have this day signified to Gunput Rae my wish of waiting on Sindia and his minister. He has promised to fix a time. No answers have yet been received from Nana Furnavees to the letters sent him on the subject of Sindia's adherents.

No. 296—Malet mentions to the Governor of Bombay the application of Nana Fadnis for arms and ammunition being supplied to him by boats at Fort Victoria (Bancot)

FROM—C W MALET,

TO—THE GOVR. IN COUNCIL, BOMBAY

*Poona, 28 April 1796*

An application was made to me last night by Behro Pant for a letter to your Resident at Ft Victoria desuing him to permit some boats to pass through his district free of customs agreeable, as B Pt says, to treaty laden with ammunition from Bassain for the supply of the fort of Raighur which you will recollect my having formerly mentioned as the place of Nanna's intended retreat. This circumstance added to the delicacy of the crisis has induced me to observe to B Pt that his application does not appear to me warranted by the treaty of 12th October 1756 and to ask whether his requisition is of a private or public nature and whether in either case it has the approbation of Badjirou.

I have already taken the liberty of suggesting the expediency of the Resident at Ft Victoria being put on his guard with respect to the passing and repassing of boats laden with Marratta property at this critical period, as formerly mentioned an application having been made to me for the passage of 5 boats laden with private property which not having been repeated leads me to conclude either that success in getting the boats a free passage may have rendered a letter from me unnecessary, or that the intention may have been dropped of which the Resident at that Station will be able to ascertain us.

B Pt has likewise signified to me that objections are made by the Resident at Ft Victoria to the placing (as he says the usual) Marratta Chokies in the villages of *Wurrattce*, *Aour* and *Cota* and requested a letter from me to the Resident in prevention of hindrance, but as I am well aware of the encroaching temper of these people, and am not without suspicion that this may possibly be some attempt of that kind preparatory to some further design of N. F. to extend his authority in those parts on his intended removal thither. Raighur being in that quarter, I have thought proper by mentioning these circumstances to you, previous to granting any letter to the Resident to enable you to give him every instruction that may be desirable to the occasion, by which his circumspection may be excited and he may be induced to transmit such accounts of occurrences in that quarter as may be eventually useful to you and me.

**No. 297**—News received by Malet about the distrust felt by all ministers and parties towards one another.

*Report of Meer Fukkur-ud-Deen—Sir Charles Warre Malet's  
Munshy—received 1st May*

*Poona, 30th April 1796.*

Last night I had an audience of Doulut Rou Sindea, but there being a great many people, I committed what I had to communicate from you to Balloo Tantea and Bhou Bukshy, and took my leave. Bhou Bukshy said he had been prevented giving me an answer by multiplicity of business, but would tomorrow. Accordingly I have been in expectation of it all day, but have not heard anything from them. In a word I cannot get a clear answer either from Sindea's Ministers or Behroo Pundit, and though the latter appears attentive, yet I cannot answer for his real disposition. At all events, I see no prospect of a clear answer, while Sindea's affair is unsettled; nor is anything here to be depended on. In the morning they have one plan, and in the evening another. And this day I learn that Sindea's ministers, in their exultation slight Purseram Bhow's advice and that he (Parm Bhou) is dissatisfied with them, while Baba Furkea, on the other hand, has made friends with him (Purm Bu). Since yesterday they are employed in consultation. They are all averse to your departure, both the ministers of Badjerou and of Sindea as well as the principals. I have therefore to request your further orders, for I have now been here ten days to no purpose. I have said what you directed, regarding the boats passing through Fort Victoria, but have not received any answer. I am given to understand, that in consequence of the dissatisfaction of Parseram Bhou with Sindea, he (Parm Bhou) is desirous of bringing over Badjerou to their party and recalling Nana if with the consent of Sindea so much the better; if not, that a rupture with him is not to be regarded. God knows the truth.

**No. 298**—Malet asks the Govr of Bombay whether the treaties of 1739 and 1756 allowed passage of boats to Fort Victoria.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVR IN COUNCIL, BOMBAY.

*Poona, 8th May 1796*

I believe the meaning of the parties with respect to granting passes when the treaty of 1739 was made was (tho' the Peshwa's copy is expressed

in more limited terms than ours) that the Company should grant them to the inhabitants of their own settlements and to the immediate servants and dependants of their several factories, including of course that of Surat.

Since that time we have acquired a new character in that city as Governors of the Mogul Castle and fleet. But whether that letter should be construed as extending our ancient factory jurisdiction or giving us in our Mogul character a new right of sovereignty or of granting passes in that capacity, I confess myself at a loss to determine.

Certain it is that this Government has frequently complained of the latitude occasionally used by your predecessors in issuing passes which has been the subject of frequent representation by me.

With respect to B Pt's demand for the passage of boats laden with ammunition from Bassain to Raighur thro' Ft. Victoria on the assumed ground of stipulation by treaty, I have rejected it as a demand being unprovided for in any article of the treaty of 1756, but signified my readiness (having previously ascertained that it is with Badjirou's privity) to grant a letter to the Resident to permit the said boats to pass on the principle of good neighbourhood and civility, reminding them at the same time of our privilege of importing 15,000 Rs worth of goods custom free into their country, which might, I should imagine, be converted to some advantage either by Govert. or by delegation. I shall be regulated in my use of your latitude of applying to the Resident at Ft. V regarding the passage of boats by B Pt's answer and await the information you have desired the Residt to furnish me relative to the Marratta Chokies for my guidance in replying to this Govert on that subject.

**No. 299**—This report describes how Chimnaji Appa was carried away by Parashuram Bhau for being placed on the Peshwa's Musnud

*Report of Sir Charles Warre Malet's Munshy received  
the same day at 4 p.m.*

*Poona, 10th May 1796, 8 a.m.*

My report of last night will have reached you. Badjerow is in confinement in Dowlut Row Sindea's tent. Pursaram Bhow carried Chimna Appa during the night to Poona, to be placed on the Musnud. I am not yet acquainted with the particulars of Badjerow's confinement, but will report what I learn hereafter.

Report of the same, dated midday the same day.

At 8 this morning I dispatched intelligence of Badjerow's confinement. The following are the particulars that have reached me of that event. When Badjerow went to Dowlut Row Sindea's tents, 5 or 600 persons



accompanied him into the public tent (Dewan Khanneh) Sindea's ministers requested that for the privacy of consultation, he would go into an inner tent. Badjerow complied, having sent before him about 200 of his followers. There were also near 300 of Sindea's people there. Bow Bukshy then represented to Badjerow, that the matters to be discussed with Dowlut Row Sindea were of a private nature, and begged him to withdraw into another tent, and to order his people not to follow him. He complied therewith, taking with him only Herojee Puttunkur, Monajee Faunkria, Mallojee Rajah, Neelkunt Row Purbhoo, Pandorung Row, and Ragonath Row Koorundwarkar. After being seated, common conversation ensued, and evening coming on Badjerow made a motion to depart, when Sindea's ministers requested him to perform his evening devotions (Sundea) and take some refreshments (Phullar) there, which would be conferring a great honor on their master. He assented and near two hours elapsed in making the necessary preparations, pitching tents, etc. Badjerow then withdrew to his devotions, and Balloo Tantea took leave on pretence of a pain in his bowels. Doondebaw did the same, to quiet an altercation probably concerted, that had arisen in the outer tent with some sepoys on account of their pay. Dowlut Row Sindea and Bhow Bukshy had also withdrawn.

In this interval, Sindea's people introduced themselves by degrees, and about 10 p.m. two servants and a Karkun came running from Badjerow's tents, and vociferously asked their master, what he was doing there while they had forcibly put his brother in a Palleenkeen, and were carrying him off to Sattara. Astonished at this, he sent for Dowlut Row Sindea and his ministers, and commanded them immediately to prepare to accompany him in pursuing the fugitives. They answered, "we are ready; but we frequently represented that these Bramins are artful and designing, which you did not attend to. If we should pursue now, they will, in the darkness of the night, cause confusion, and endanger the camps being plundered, but where can they go? We will march in the morning overtake and seize them." During this Mallojee Raja and Neelkunt Row Purbhoo (chiefs, who were attended by at least 4 or 500 horse) had withdrawn in consequence of intelligence from Baba Furkia Herojee Puttunkur and Monajee Faunkria then began to lament the inefficacy of their frequent advice to seize and confine the heads of the Bramin party. In a word, Sindea's ministers prevailed on Badjerow to remain there the night, and that they would march in the morning. Monajee Faunkria, Pandorung Row, Herojee Puttunkur, and Ragonath Row Koorundwarrekur (a discontented relation of Pursaram Bhow) remained with him, and others, including servants, to the number of 200. All the rest returned to camp. In the mean time, Baba Furkia placed guards round Badjerow's tents, and confined all his people, and sent Chimna Appa's tents for the accommodation of Badjerow. Baba Furkia marches today towards Poona, and Dowlut Row Sindea will march

tomorrow or next day. All Badjerow's dependants have absconded. The whole of Pursaram Bhow's forces have marched to Poona, and Badjerow's (or the Peshwa's) troops are now marching by order of Baba Furkia. Behroo Pundit is also moving. It is my intention to see Balloo Tantea before I return.

*Intelligence from the British Resident's cantonments, dated 9th May 1796,  
midnight, received 10th May 9 a m*

Pursaram Bhow is just arrived and has entered Rasta's palace with Chimna Appa, after which, the gates were shut. There are about 4,000 horse round the palace, and patrols of cavalry traverse the city.

*Intelligence from the same quarter, dated 10th May 1796—7 p m*

Baba Furkia is just arrived, and has encamped close to our cantonment. Chimna Appa is with Pursaram Bhow and Madarow Furkia in Rasta's palace. It is said, that Chimna Appa is so overcome with grief and terror as to refuse sustenance. The shops of the city are in general shut. Pursaram Bhow's troops are in possession of the city.

*Verbal report of Sir Charles Warre Malet's Munshy, on his return,  
11th May 1796*

I took leave of Behroo Pundit yesterday at midday, after writing my last report, when he charged me with his compliments, and directed me to say to you, not from government but from himself, "That Badjerow having paid a visit to Dowlut Row Sindea, was detained there, therefore Pursaram Bhow had taken Chimna Appa and carried him to Poona. I (Behroo Pundit) am likewise going thither, so that after reporting this to the Resident, you will come there when what is to be communicated will be done in concert with Pursaram Bhow." From thence, I (the Munshy) proceeded to Sindea's Camp and had a meeting with Balloo Tantea and BhowBukshy in the former's tent, who, with their compliments, desired me to tell you, that it had happened that Badjerow came here, and that Chimna Appa went there. That the friendship of the states remained as it was, and that they would communicate particulars at another meeting, but at present they were prevented by want of leisure.

*Report of Sir Charles Warre Malet's news-writer in Badjerow's Army  
dated 10th May 1796.*

After Badjerow's going to Sindea's Camp, Pursaram Bhow had ordered his troops to hold themselves in readiness, went in person to Chimna Appa, and told him, he must go to Baba Saheb (Badjerow). He replied, how could he go without his brother's orders? Pursaram Bhow said, delay not but come, and then taking him by the hand drew him forcibly, and put him in a Pallankeen, he crying and beating his face violently. Pursaram Bhow then carried him off; and Baba Furkia with Narro Punt Chuckerdev remained in the army. It is said that a force is to be sent to Junnur to seize Emrut Row.

**No. 300**—News of the proceedings of Sindia and Parashuram Bhau for the installation of Chimna Appa and confinement of Bajirao is reported to Malet by Palmer's Munshy

*Extract of intelligence from Major Palmer's News-writer in Dowlut Row Sindea's Camp, from the 10th to the 11th of May 1796*

*Poona, 11 May 1796*

10th May This morning, after Dowlut Row Sindea had entered his tent of audience, Balloo Tantea, Doondebow, Narain Row Bukshy, Bhow Bukshy, Bhow Furnavees, etc., were present, when a note arrived from Pursaram Bhow by a camel courier, advising his arrival with Chimna Appa at Rasta's Palace in Poona about  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 that morning, that he had taken measures to preserve the peace of the city, and ordered his camp to join him, adding that Chimna Appa was inconsolable and had torn off his Braminical string (Jinou) and threw himself out of his Pallankeen, but that they were comforting him. Also that he had dispatched letters to Nana Furnavees. After reading this note, an answer was sent, desiring early advice of Nana's reply. Dowlut Row Sindea, accompanied by his ministers, then went to pay his respects to Badjerow and endeavoured to comfort him. Badjerow and Dowlut Row Sindea had then a private conference, but as the period of compliance with Dowlut Row Sindea's demands had been suffered to elapse, and the enthronement of Chimna Appa was now the object, this conference ended in consolatory language on the part of Dowlut Row Sindea. Badjerow was prevailed on with great difficulty to perform his ablutions, and proceeded to the tent of Bhow Furnavees, a Bramin, to eat when presents were offered him, but he declined acceptance, observing it was not a season for such acts. He then returned to Dowlut Row Sindea's tents, while the tents of Chimna Appa, with horses, elephants, etc., arrived for his accommodation, which, with another furnished by Dowlut Row Sindea were pitched between his (Sindea's) and Balloo Tantea's tents. His attendants were supplied with provisions. Badjerow, on being told his tents were ready, preferred staying where he was. In the mean time the armies of Pursaram Bhow and the Peshwa had marched, and the Peshwa's tent was pitched on the banks of the Poona river. The settlement of the government and the enthronement of Chimna Appa, were canvassed by Sindea and his ministers, and at midday all parties retired to rest and in the evening again assembled, when a private consultation was held. It was communicated that Badjerow had expressed great satisfaction on hearing of the safety of his brother, and regretted that he had hearkened to others in so obstinately opposing Sindea's demands, in favor of Nana. A list was made of 1,000 horses, to be attached to Badjerow, and given to Narain Row to be supplied. Much discussion then passed relative to keeping Badjerow in camp, until the receipt of the Keellat and enthronement of Chimna Appa and until the sentiments

of Nana Furnavees and the other chiefs could be discovered, and after procuring full satisfaction on those points, he might be sent to Juncer, or wherever might be resolved on, when no dangerous persons or none of those formerly attached to him, should be retained. Letters were then dispatched to Lukwa Dada etc., chiefs in the north of India and letters, enjoining particular care of Chimna Appa and Azim-al-Omra, were dispatched to Poona. Dowlut Row Sindea then retired to rest.

11th May This morning the ministers waited on Dowlut Row Sindea, and Badjerow was at length prevailed on to go to the tents that had been pitched for him, and for the present, four companies of sepoy, two guns, and 500 horse are appointed as his guard. It is generally reported that four crores of Rupees, a Jaghier, and reconciliation with Nana Furnavees, are to be the price of the deposition and imprisonment of Badjerow, and Chimna Appa's enthronement in his stead, and that these terms have been settled through Pursaram Bhow and Baba Furkea, and that Badjerow is to be sent into confinement, when these conditions are fulfilled, after which, he (Dowlut Row Sindea) is to proceed to the north.

Hitherto however, there is the appearance of fluctuation. Sometimes they talk of Nana Furnavees's being re-instated in the ministry in the event of a firm reconciliation and compliance with the stipulations that have been entered into, at others, they say no confidence can be placed in him, and talk of devolving the management of affairs on Pursaram Bhow and Baba Furkea, to be joined by a chief on the part of Sindea. During these embarrassments Badjerow likewise makes various proposals. We shall see what will happen.

**No. 301**—Further plans of Sindia and the ministers are reported in this news brought in by Malel's Munshi

*Report of Sir Charles Warre Malel's Munshi, dated 12th May 1796  
8 a m., received the same morning at half past 9*

*Poona, 12 May 1796.*

After taking leave of you yesterday I reached the cantonment in the evening, but Behroo Pundit was not at home, and did not get home from Rasta's palace till 10 p m. This morning I visited him, when he told me that they had deputed Medajee Pundit and Juggonaut Pundit to wait on you, and request you would come to the cantonment and desired I would also write you to come soon, that they might in person communicate what they had to say. He added that this night was fixed on for Chimna Appa's entering the Peshwa's palace.

It appears that Dowlut Row Sindea will not come for four or five days. Today Madarow Ramchunder and Bhasker Punt Mindleh' are gone to him as a deputation from the widow of the late Peshwa, to desire he will not interpose in behalf of Badjerow, but this is mere artifice of both parties, to furnish an argument to be used with Badjerow for deserting and sacrificing his cause, as it seems they mean to make Chimna Appa the adopted son of the widow Herojee Pattunkur, Monnajee Faunkria, and Sadaseev Pawar are still with Badjerow, who is said to have laid aside his turban and string (Jinou) declaring that as to the government he declaims it, and only wishes that they would restore him his former imprisonment and the society of his brother, and Chimna Appa likewise rejects the government and insists on being restored to his brother

*Intelligence from Poona 12th May 1796*

It is reported through a channel of credit that Nana applied to Nazim for aid, who replied, that there was no objection, if they would firmly fix on a head of their State but that he heard they meant to give Dowlut Row Sindea an assignment on him which was wrong, as he was not a dependant to do as they pleased, and as to his debt he would doubtless fall on modes of discharging it. Nana has dispatched letters to the Rajas of the north of India, also to Ally Behadur, and has ordered Govin Pingleh to pay to Sindea twenty-five lacs of rupees, on the day of Chimna Appa's investiture, twenty-five on his (Sindea's) reaching the Gunga, and fifty, on his reaching the Nurbudda

In Sindea's councils, the leaving Nana in these parts is not approved of, since, should he join with the English, great embarrassment would ensue, and it is certain that a man will do any thing to extricate himself from difficulty. Last night the cavalcade was ready for carrying Chimna Appa to the Peshwa's Palace, but on Pursaram Bhow's desiring him to proceed, he reproached him bitterly and refused to go, nor could he be prevailed on by the entreaties of all those who attempted to prevail on him, so that at last they were obliged to desist and defer the procession. Chimna Appa answers all those who attempt to reconcile him, in terms of reproach and loudly insists on being restored to his brother, or that he will destroy himself like the late Peshwa. It is reported that Sindea will come and encamp at Kirkee (near Poona).

**No. 302**—Malet reports that Bajrao's brother Chumnaji was forcibly taken away by Parashuram Bhau to the palace for installation

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNORS OF BOMBAY AND MADRAS

*Poona, 13 May 1796.*

Hon'ble Sir,

On the 10th instant I had the honour to advise you of the carrying off Chumnajee Appa by P Bhou during his elder brother Badjirou's

\* Son of Bahno Pant Mchependale,

absence on a visit to Sindia, since which both those Princes have remained, as there is every reason to think by concert between Sindia and Pursaram, under the confinement of those chieftains, but the younger has hitherto rejected with indignation all the solicitations made to him to usurp his brother's Musnud

Previous to the perpetration of this base and treacherous act Sindia had in obscure terms requested my sentiments on a change of Govnt, which I declined giving, and signified his intention of using coercion to Badjirou's compliance with his demands, but I confess that I did not suspect that matters would have been carried to such a length of perfidy and usurpation, as now seems to be the object in the substitution of Chimna Appa, however averse to his elder brother whose right had been previously universally acknowledged

Badjirou is in Sindia's camp about 12 miles to the eastward of Poona, and Chimna Appa with Pursaram Bhow in the city

On declining the late application for the passage of ammunition boats through Fort Victoria on the plea of covenanted right, it was agreed to accept passports as an act of civility, and I desired to be furnished with the number which was promised but hitherto not executed.

PS—This morning Chimna Appa was carried very reluctantly into the Peshwa's Palace as a preparation to the further ceremony of the instalment

**No. 303**—Malet communicates the adoption and installation of Chimnaji Appa as fixed for 26th May at Poona

FROM—C W MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

*Poona, 25th May 1796.*

I was favored with your letter of the 20th from Salsettee on the 23rd and was very happy to learn from it that your attention is directed to the procural of indemnification for the depredations of the Marratta etc cruizers on our commerce and national credit, in which pursuit you may freely command every information that I possess, but as from the confused state of affairs here for some time past, I have already dispatched my records to Bombay, and as by the annunciation just made to me, of the conclusion of the late distractions by the seating of Chimna Appa on the Musnud tomorrow, I have prospect of being able to gratify my wish of spending the rains at your Presidency, I trust you will agree with me in the preference of suspending troubling you with what may occur on this subject, until I can have the pleasure of doing it more satisfactorily in person after due reference to my official documents

Nanna Furnavees has complied with the requisition of Sindia to withdraw for the present to a place of retirement and by my latest intelligence was at Wyhe, about 16 miles from Sattarra. The Keellat is to be at Poona to-night and the ceremonies of investiture, adoption, and installation to take place tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock.

**No. 304**—Malet politely declined to be present at the installation of Chinnaji, and urged indisposition as his excuse. As he did not desire British interposition in the present troubles, he proposed to go to Bombay for a change of air

*Translation of a message from Punsaram Bhow to Sir Charles Warre Malet, delivered verbally by Bhasker Pundit, son of Behroo Pundit to Malet's Munshey Received 26th May 1796*

*Poona, 26th May 1796*

Tomorrow morning at about 7 o'clock is appointed for placing Chinnaji Appa on the Musnud of the Peshwaship, and for investing him with the Killat from the Raja of Sattarra and for performing his adoption, as son of the late Madarou Peshwa. All the chiefs will be assembled; as between this State and your Government there is friendship without estrangement, and also a perfect good understanding and cordiality with you personally, the ten years that have elapsed during your Residency having been happily spent in the increase of amity, therefore your favoring us with your company on this joyful occasion, will be highly pleasing to the widow and all the chiefs. You should therefore join in the assembly at the palace tomorrow. This is particularly necessary.

*Answer of Sir Charles Warre Malet, through the same channel on the same day.*

I have been favored with your kind message, the friendly purport of which, as it conveyed a pleasing instance of your remembrance of a sick and absent friend, was particularly grateful. Moreover, you have been pleased, in consequence of the friendship of the two States, and my personal devotion to the welfare of both, to express a wish of my being present in the assembly of the chiefs, on the occasion of placing a new Peshwa on the Musnud. I need not assure you of the satisfaction I should have in complying therewith, were I not prevented by the same indisposition which has caused your having been frequently importuned for a passport, to enable me to proceed to Bombay in the hope of reaping the same benefit, that I experienced from the air of that place last year, and the disappointment in which has caused my residence at this place for these two months past.

But as the sincerity of friendship depends not merely on observance of outward ceremony, I trust you will look on me still wholly occupied

(as for these ten years past) by a sincere desire to promote the increase of the friendship of the two States, and that you will sympathize in the concern that I experience, on being prevented from accepting your friendly invitation, owing to that unfortunate indisposition, which induces me here to repeat my frequent solicitations of being soon furnished with a dustuck.

**No. 305**—Malet reports to the Governor General the installation of Chimnaji Appa as Peshwa

FROM—C. W MALET,  
TO—SIR JOHN SHORE

*Poona, 26th May 1796*

On the 25th I received a message from Pursaram Bhou, requesting my presence at the installation etc of Chimna Appa on the ensuing day, which with my answer I have the honour to enclose.

Subsequent to sending my answer, but before it was received by Pursaram Bhou, I received a visit from Siddeeshwur, the Beenee-Wala or Camp-Master of the Empire requesting in the name of Pursaram Bhou and Baba Furkia, my presence at the abovementioned ceremonial to which I gave a similar answer, on grounds that shall be detailed in my next address; this being purposely to advise that Dowlut Rou Sindea and Tukojee Holkar's sons having assisted at a general consultation in the Peshwa's palace on the 25th and Behroo Pundit and Tumbuc & Row Peyntea having returned the same evening with the Killat etc. from Sattarra and prevailed on Nana Furnavees to retire to the neighbouring town of Wyhe, the chiefs assembled at the Peshwa's palace this morning, and about 9½ a.m. Chimna Appa was invested with the Killat of Peshwaship, which was announced to the city by the firing of cannon

I have not heard anything relative to the future disposal of Baljerou, since in his camp, or the probable issue of all the hopes, to which Sindea's conduct may have given rise. Such particulars as I may be able to collect of this extraordinary event shall be transmitted by tomorrow's post.

**No. 306**—Malet sends Governor General a full report of the installation of Chimnaji to the Peshwaship, explaining how he contrived to be absent on the occasion and to observe a non-committal attitude.

FROM—C. W MALET,  
TO—SIR JOHN SHORE.

*Poona, 30th May 1796.*

I had the honor to address you on the 27th instant, since which an intention has been confidentially intimated to me by Behroo Pundit of



a person from Dowlut Row Sindea and another from the Durbar being deputed to urge my visiting Chimna Appa and dropping my intended journey to Bombay, which I have discouraged by signifying the utter impracticability of complying at present with the first part of such a requisition and that, so far from attempting to dissuade me from my visit to Bombay (the intention of which, being previous to Chimna Appa's introduction, could not possibly have any connexion therewith), it should be rather a satisfactory circumstance to Behroo Pundit that my absence so long requested on the plea of health, relieved both him and me from the awkwardness that would attach to remaining on the spot without performing the ceremony of a visit

This will, I hope, prove satisfactory and induce them to grant the dustuck, the delay of which after having been promised, carries the appearance of an illiberal design to coerce me into measures rather confirming, as I have signified to Behroo Pundit, than surmounting my repugnance to them. Nor have I thought a more explicit explanation of my motives prudent, since exposing my opinion of the deformity and probable instability of their late acts, might involve you in some degree of difficulty in acknowledging the present succession, of my disapproval of which they have no document but in the suggestions of their own conscience, and add to the dissatisfaction of my not complying with their wish of a visit to Chimna Appa without answering any good end.

The facility with which the Brahmin party appears to have assented to Dowlut Row Sindea's demands, evidently proves the treachery of their previous suggestions to Badjee Row to oppose them, which opposition is attributed to that party by Dowlut Row's ministers themselves, in their account to me of their master's Dhurna of the 17th April. These circumstances, and the responsibility having devolved from Badjee Row to those who became security for the conditions exacted on that occasion, added to the conciliatory spirit that breathes in Badjee Row's official message to me of the 2nd instant, in the execution of which he was betrayed and thereby prevented resorting to his last hope in our good offices, place in the strongest possible point of view the treacherous chicane of the Bhramins and the flagrant perfidy and doubtful policy of Dowlut Row in submitting to it. For in the first place, his honor, the brightest and most solid gem in the crown of Princes, is sullied if not irretrievably lost, and though it is said that the price of his perfidy is 1st—the absolute management of the Mahratta pretensions founded on the Vakeelat-al-Mutluk with the title of Aalee Jah, 2nd—a Jagheer in the Dekkan, 3rd—fifty laks of Rupees in ready money 4th—an assignment on the Nazim for one crore and fifty lacs of Rupees, and 5th—an assignment for the Sindean quota in attendancce on the Peshwa in agitation, yet there are snares and dangers to be encountered, in the accomplishment of these concessions that will probably engender future discord. For while Dowlut Row, full of that power by which he deposed Badjee Row and placed

Chimna Appa on the Musnud, will feel any exertion of the latter's authority irksome, the Brahmins will be incessantly on the watch to use the name of their present convenient head, the Paishwa, to revenge the late humiliation of their order - in which pursuit, they will not perhaps be very sorry, in the event of Dowlut Row's prosecuting his demand, furnished by the abovementioned assignment on the Nizam by marching part of his force, as is said to be his intention, into his Highness's country, to see him meet with such checks as may render him more perversive to their designs, of which his disinclination to put Badjee Row into their power implies that he is not unaware.

It is pretty confidentially reported, that the restless and ambitious spirit of the Sindean Ministry has, after disposing of this Govt embraced the project held forth to it by Azeem-ul-Omrah of influencing that of Hyderabad also, through his instrumentality by reestablishing his former ministerial omnipotence, which is to be rewarded by the immediate payment of fifty lacs of Rupees, and every possible assistance in the recovery of the Sindean demands on the Nizam's Govt in which, if the old royal assignment of two crores is added to the Peshwa's of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , his Highness will become responsible for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  crores

Considering the circumstances of Sindea's family and ministry I think it probable, that these objects if adopted, will furnish ample employment during their own or their master's administration and, if so, it may be deemed fortunate, that their restless and unprincipled pursuits have been diverted to a distance from our or our allies' territories, the peaceful and comparatively prosperous state of which, might have been too strong a temptation for their notoriously unprincipled spirit, pressed by the exigencies of their own miserably managed revenues.

Reports are circulated of plans of reconciliation being on foot between Nanna Furnavees and Dowlut Row Sindea, which derive some credibility, from the success of the Brahmins in their late purchase of that chief and his ministers whence it is reasonable to infer, that the Brahmin party may, by the same means, hope to make a further progress in their great work of reconsolidating their late humbled and scattered branches

On the late adoption, the name of Chimna Ragonath, or Chimna the son of Ragonath, was changed to Chimna Mahdew, or the son of Mahdew (the late Peshwa) which I hear the young man still refuses to use in his prayers (Sundea) and in notes to his brother, which he is still permitted to write etc, and complains loudly of the breach of the promise of seeing his brother on the day of his installation, by which he was prevailed on to submit to the investiture, etc.

**No. 307**—Malet visits Bombay, absenting himself purposely from Poona, so as not to support by his presence the supersession of Bajirao's claims to the Peshwaship.

FROM—C. W. MALET,  
TO—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

*Poona, 1st June 1796.*

Having found a change of air requisite, I purpose with the consent of this Court leaving this place for Bombay on the 4th instant, and hope to be at Panwell on the 6th, whither I have to request you will order two row boats for the accommodation of myself and attendants and one Pattamar boat for my baggage

I shall deliver over the discharge of my functions at this Court to Mr. Uthoff who will esteem himself honored by the receipt and executions of your commands

**No. 308**—Malet informs Palmer why he was going to Bombay and how unsettled the conditions at Poona were.

FROM—C. W. MALET,  
TO—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER

*Poona, 2nd June 1796.*

I have now the pleasure to enclose a continuation of my duplicate addresses to the Governor General since my last of the 21st ultimo, by which you will perceive a total cessation of communication to me by D. R. Sindia's ministers from the 10th ultimo, the period of Badjrou's deposition to the 30th ultimo, which was interrupted on the 31st by a visit from your agent Gunput Rao charged with a message from Balla Tania and Bhou Bucshi (without any mention of their master) to signify their wish of my visiting C. Appa and discover whether my not doing so arose from dissatisfaction. On the first point I desired G. Rao to assign the same reason, indisposition, as I had to the Peshwa's ministers for not having the honor. On the second I begged him to recall to the recollection of Sindia's ministers that so far from my intended journey affording the smallest idea of its arising from dissatisfaction, I had mentioned my intention to them long before Badjrou's deposition, and now meant to carry it into effect when the predicament proposed by themselves "The settlement of the Government" removed all objection. In the course of conversation with G. R., I collected that it is the general opinion of Sindia's army that no stress is to be laid on the stability of the present settlement and that a thousand latent seeds of domestic evil and of dissension in the late coalition, threaten an ample crop of future troubles. Yesterday I received a complimentary visit to wish me a good journey and speedy return from Bhasker Rou, B. Buxshi's nephew, who seemed equally doubtful of the permanence of the present calm. As I intend proceeding to Bombay on the 4th instant it is probable your next from this quarter will be from Mr. Uthoff, who will always be happy to receive your commands and to execute them with the same alacrity as, Dear Sir, Yours with real esteem and regard, etc.

## SECTION 7

### *Nana's flight to Mahad and accession of Bajirao II*

**No. 309**—Uthhoff reports the departure of Malet for Bombay and of Nana for Raigad

**FROM**—ASSISTANT RESIDENT UTHHOFF,

**TO**—LORD HOBART, GOVERNOR OF FORT ST GEORGE.

*Poona, 10 June 1796.*

Agreeably to Sir Charles Malet's letter to your Lordship of the 3rd instant, he set off from hence for Bombay on the 4th

Nanna Furnavees left Wyhe in a secret manner on the 3rd instant, and on the 6th arrived at Mhar, a large town near the strong hill fort of Raighur or Rairee in the Kokun and within a few miles of the Company's district of Bancoot or Fort Victoria

Chimna Appa (the new Peshwa) Baajy Rou, Doulut Rou Sindea, and Putsaram Bhou, are much in the same state as already advised by Sir Charles Malet

On the whole, the prospect of a stable and permanent settlement of the affairs of this quarter, appears still more distant and gloomy than ever.

**No. 310**—Uthhoff writes to the Resident of Fort Victoria to be watchful about the movements of Nana Fadnis.

**FROM**—J. UTHHOFF,

**TO**—CHARLES WATKINS, RESIDENT AT FORT VICTORIA,

*Poona, 11 June 1796.*

Sir Charles being absent at Bombay for the benefit of his health, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to him of

the 7th instant and to thank you for the early communication of the important intelligence contained therein, a continuation of which will be extremely acceptable, and for the purpose of a frequent communication with your quarter I send a Hirkarra of my own with yours, and have to recommend to you, considering the importance of the crisis and the risk and delay from the rains and Chokies between Poona and Bancoot, that any letters you may have to favour me with may be written in duplicate, the original to be forwarded direct, and the duplicate by the way of Bombay, under cover to Sir Charles Malet, and left open for his perusal.

It is currently reported and credited here that Nanna Furnavees, on account of the unhealthiness of the neighbourhood at Raighur, has quitted that quarter and proceeded to Gheina.

**No. 311**—Malet writes to the Governor of Bombay the probable consequences of Nana being pursued by Sindia's force into Konkan and the line of conduct that the British should adopt.

FROM—C W MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, BOMBAY.

*Bombay, 12 June 1796.*

I am just favor'd with your Secy's letter of yesterday's date enclosing copies of others from the Resdt. at Fort Victoria to you and me, and lose no time to reply to your desire of my sentiments on the subject of them

It appears certain that Nanna's retreat to Raighur is (as I have long apprehended it would be) the consequence of the predominance of the Sindian party in the late settlement of the succession, and it naturally follows that as the acquisition of his person is an object of the last\* importance to that party, he will in all human probability (should amicable invitations fail) be invested in the fort which he has made his asylum, which will necessarily draw a large body of Sindea's forces into the neighborhood of Ft Victoria who, being generally extremely licentious and rapacious might, were a refuge granted to any wealthy people of the country who in that quarter are I believe generally connected with the ex-Minister, make their seizure a pretence for gratifying their predatory spirit in our districts, while, were our force in that quarter equal to their protection, the pointed stipulations of the treaty concluded near Gwalior on the 26 April 1783 effectually prevent our resorting to it against the party that possesses all the titular power and claims of the Peshwaship.

Nor is it to be forgotten that the commander of Sindia's regular troops, Mr. Perron, being a Frenchman may add to the expediency of not affording the smallest ground for the gratification of an inimical spirit that by designing men might be directed to the production of disagreeable consequences, but tho' the above considerations militate against the

\*Last = utmost.

reception or protection of conspicuous characters, it may be reasonably hoped that the late confusions and general insecurity of property in the Mairatta country, which are not likely to be very quickly terminated, may have a good effect in increasing the population of our districts of Salsette, Ooran and Fort Victoria by emigrants, whose humble condition may remove them from the notice of their own troubled . . . Govt and render them the most desuabale as the most industrious subjects

**No. 312**—*Mr. Watkins writes to Uththoff news about Nana Fadnis' situation at Mahad & his preparations for defending himself in the fort of Raigad*

FROM—WATKINS, RESIDENT, FORT VICTORIA,

TO—JOSHUA UHTHOFF

*Fort Victoria, 16 June 1796*

Your letter of the 11th instant, I had the honor to receive yesterday, your recommendation, respecting the transmission of my letters, shall be strictly attended to, as the necessity of circumspection is more particularly become necessary, from the suspicion of Nana Farnavees of the contents of our correspondence. I was yesterday informed, by a person from Mhar, whose credibility I cannot doubt, that Nanna was very desirous of opening the letter abovementioned, and enquired if there was any one in the neighbourhood who could read English, but not being able to find such a person, I believe induced him to desist.

The report, which you mention to be current in Poona and credited; of Nanna having proceeded to Gheria, is certainly without foundation, as from good authority I learn that he was at Mhar the 13th of this month. I apprehend that he could not quit that neighbourhood without my being made acquainted with it.

Since my last letter of the 10th instant, copy of which is enclosed, I have been enabled to obtain a great deal of information, particularly relating to Raighur, more correct and to be depended upon, than what I have hitherto communicated.

Three of the roads from the Ghauts communicating with Mhar have been broken up they are termed, Worandha, Nauriah, and Shumtsah. No persons going up are permitted to pass any of the numerous Choukeys, which Nanna has established between Mhar and the Ghauts, without a pass from Mhar, and those coming down with any letters are ordered to be brought before him, as was the case with the two Hircanias lately arrived.

There are at present in the neighbourhood of Mhar, besides the garrison of Raighur, about 1,200 horse and 5,000 foot, and more troops are raising by Nana daily. Guzria, the Ser-Subedar, went to the fort of Raighur on Monday morning last, but returned again in the evening. It was Nana's

intention to have gone with him, but owing to a pain in one of his legs, he dropped his intention. Nanna resides in a house adjoining the Durbar.

The person I had been in expectation of seeing for some time past, arrived yesterday, and from him I have obtained the following particulars, relative to the fort of Raighur. For the better understanding of its situation, I enclose a kind of plan, copied from one I got the above person to sketch. The distance from Mhar to the foot of the hill, on which the fort is built, is reckoned six cose, in a direction due north. The hill is of a great height being one cose and a half from the foot to the summit. The road up for about-one third of the way is adapted for cattle, the remainder very steep, so narrow as to admit of only one person, and dangerous, such, in short, that the approach to assault it, must be excessively difficult (if not impossible) from the efforts of a few defending it. There is but one road up; but formerly there was another pathway, which has been carefully destroyed. The fort is shaped out of the solid rock in some parts, and in others, built upon and is very high. There are in the fort from 40 to 50 cannons, of different sizes, and two bombs, the latter, and eight of the former, are new, all these are mounted, except 6 or 7. Three guns which were placed at a Chouky about midway are conveying to the fort. In the fort, is a large quantity of gram, ghee, oil etc., to the amount of about 70,000 Rupees, 3,000 round iron-shot, 500 stone-shot, 50 candies of lead, and 100 jenjaul pieces, a great quantity of gunpowder, mostly old, but new manufacturing at Mhar. The garrison consists at present of 2,500 sepoys (including Chowky guards, and picquets) armed mostly with matchlocks, near the foot of the hill. Sheds are building for troops, both cavalry and foot.

**No. 313**—Malet communicates to the Governor of Bombay a message received from the new Peshwa not to attend to any negotiation started by Nana.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

*Bombay, 28 June 1796.*

For your better understanding the delicacy of taking any part in the support of Nanna's cause or party I enclose the Durbar's official message regarding him.

Official message from the Peshwa to the Assistant Resident at Poona received 8th June 1798.

Ballajee Janardhun having quitted Wye went to the Cokun. In case any negotiation be set on foot by him with the Company's Government or any message be sent, considering the treaties and friendship of the two States it should not be attended to, but agreeably to friendship the same should be communicated.

**No. 314**—Uthoff requests the Governor of Bombay to supply the Resident at Bankot with a copy of the cipher for keeping the correspondence secret.

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—RICHARD FORIN, SUB-SECRETARY AT BOMBAY.

*July 1796.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter and enclosures of the 1st instant, and to request you will submit to the hon'ble the Governor in Council, that it appeared to me advisable, that the Resident at Fort Victoria should be furnished with a copy of the cipher, No 11, to be used occasionally in the course of his correspondence with this Residency, while Nanna Furnavees continues to reside at Mhar, or in its neighbourhood to which opinion, I was influenced, by a consideration of the present important and critical state of the affairs of the Maratta Empire, the very distinguished situation that Nanna Furnavees has for upwards of twenty years past held in this State; the important light in which he must still be considered; and the great risk of the miscarriage of letters between Poona and Bancote, the whole of the road being occupied, either by the adherents of Nanna Furnavees, or by those of his opponents, between whom the most inveterate enmity subsists, and the most scrupulous vigilance is observed by both parties (though, hitherto with some delicacy towards us, which however it is not prudent to continue to trust to) in preventing or intercepting every kind of communication.

Under the above circumstances the correspondence between this Residency and that of Fort Victoria (without involving any commitment of the Company or deviation from perfect neutrality) may, it would seem, be frequently of such a nature, as to render it advisable to keep it by cipher concealed from the knowledge of all the contending parties in this State.

Should the Hon'ble Board think it proper that the Resident at Fort Victoria should be furnished with a copy of the cipher, it must be evident from the above circumstances that it would be highly imprudent to risk transmitting it direct from Poona to Bancote; whereas there is, I understand but little if any impediment to the communication between Bombay and Bancote, which consequently appears the best channel for its transmission

**No. 315**—Malet communicates to Kirkpatrick occurrences at Poona and the movements of Azim-ul-Umra.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—WILLIAM KIRKPATRICK.

*Bombay, 6 August 1796.*

I never had an idea that Nizam Ally Khan would have hesitated to acknowledge Chimna Appa as Peshwa with the same felicity that he was ready to acknowledge Nanna Furnavees's alien adoption, and afterwards Baajy Rou, agreeably to the wish of the predominant party here. Nizam Ally Khan has hitherto on one pretence or other waived compliance with



the pecuniary stipulations of the convention of Kurdla, but previous to the death of the late Peshwa, His Highness never urged the non-settlement of the Poona Government as an argument against compliance which he has done since Chinna Appa's accession

It is a very generally received opinion here that some kind of an accommodation has taken place between Azim-ul-Omra and Azim-ud-Dowla (Meer Alam) and that the latter is to accompany the former to Hyderabad. Azim-ul-Omra is, I understand, entertaining many persons in his service here

**No. 316--** Uthhoff describes the situation of affairs at Poona and Mahad. Subrao an agent of Ram Raja of Travancore is reported to be busy at Poona. See nos 235 and 243 above

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD HOBART, GOVERNOR OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

*Poona, 10 August 1796.*

I had the honor to address your Lordship on the 3rd instant

It seems proper I should notice to your Lordship, that Soobrou, who passes himself off at this Court as the Vakeel of Ram Raja of Travancore, without having ever had any intercourse whatever with this Residency except through the Poona Government, as formerly noticed to your Lordship, has occasional private conferences with Pursaram Bhou, and has solicited through Doulut Rou Sindia a title for Ram Raja from the King of Delhi. The last mention made of Soobrou to your Lordship was in Sir Charles Malet's letter of the 18th April last, and I have now the honour to enclose extract of Sir Charles' letter to the Governor General on the same subject dated 13th May, which comprises everything of consequence that I know respecting Soobrou, who is still here, and whose intercourse with the Durbar is carried on through Govin Pingleh, a very close connexion of Govin Keshen's, who is the Peshwa's Vakeel at the Court of Hyderabad. Soobrou long ago extricated himself from the embarrassment mentioned in the enclosed paper.

For intelligence relative to Nanna Furnavees and the operations carrying on against him, I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the enclosed copies of letters lately received from the Resident at Fort Victoria at Bancoot, within a few miles of Mhar, Nanna's present place of residence. Perron's Brigade has been ordered to rejoin Doulut Rou Sindia's Camp in the neighbourhood. On the 6th instant the Peshwa gave an entertainment to Azim-ul-Omra

On the 10th instant I received a message from the Durbar that intelligence had reached them that Tippoo Sultaun was making warlike preparations and had been joined by some French; also, that Nana Furnavees had a negotiation on foot with Tippoo Sultaun. A communication from me was requested of any information that might reach us on these points.

**No. 317**—Malet sends from Bombay an elucidating report on Maratha affairs and the political situation of India in general to the Court of Directors, and suggests the means of protecting the interests of the British Government in India through the troublesome times

FR OM—C. W MALET,

TO—THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS, LONDON

*Bombay, 17 August 1796*

I have the honour to enclose duplicate of my last address to you of the 17th ultimo since which the Governor General's instructions have been received by Mr Uthhoff in acknowledgement of the new Peshwa conformable to his investiture with the Rajah of Sattara's Keelut and the Durbar's notification thereof to me, but with such a degree of reserve during the present very unsettled state of the Government as without attracting notice or giving offence, may be best calculated to avoid commitment for implication with the present ruling party there. You will have observed by my last that these instructions had been virtually anticipated by the conduct of the Residency since the instalment of Chhanna Appa.

The Governor General's answers to the Durbar's letters announcing the new Peshwa, had not been received to the date of my last advices from Poona of 14 instant, but may be daily expected as those letters were dispatched from Poona, so long ago as 26th June. In the mean time the avowed espousal of Badjerow's cause by the ex-minister Nana Furnaveese, whose troops have lately attacked with advantage some of Sindea's that were advancing against him, and the unequivocal symptoms of a predilection for the same cause in the whole body of Maunkaries or hereditary nobles of the Maratta Empire, headed by Baba Fulkar, countenanced by Tukojee Holcar and supported by the treasures of the ex-Minister, by which the State is momentarily exposed to new convulsions and new revolutions, strongly evince the prudence of the Governor General's cautionary instructions. For tho' the ruling party has claimed and receives the treatment from us due to the existing administrative power of the Empire, yet the other party having signified to us that disavowal of the usurpation and their intention to oppose and if possible subvert its establishment, indubitably justifies the Governor General's avoidance of such an intimacy with the present power, as might eventually be offensive to the just and, it may be, ultimately successful claimant.

In explanation of the other party's having signified to us their disavowal and opposition of the late usurpation, it is necessary to acquaint you, Hon'ble Sir, that since my last address specific proposals have been made to me by the ex-Minister for the Hon'ble Company's adoption of the cause of Badjerow in consideration of the justice of his claims, and of an adequate remuneration in territory and specie for the assistance to be granted, in addition to which formal application, frequent verbal solicitations of aid and protection have been made by Badjerow himself

to Mr. Uhthoff and lately by letter to the Governor of this Presidency and myself, all which have been treated with the most guarded observance of the strictest neutrality, with such notification to the Governor General as may be requisite for the regulation of his judgment and future measures in a contest which still threatens serious and extensive consequences; for, by the same rule that the deposed Peshwa and ex-Minister have had recourse to us, it is reasonable to conclude they have applied in the same manner to Tippoo, the Nazim and to every other power or chieftain that can have afforded even a shadow of assistance

Nor does the ruling party seem unconscious of or insensible to danger; for since my last address the design therein attributed to the Sindean ministry of re-establishing Aazim-al-Omra in the administration of the Nazim's Government has already been prosecuted to his entire liberation from confinement, which was followed by an interchange of visits with the Peshwa, Doulatrao Sindea etc in such a manner as to convey the most impressive conviction of perfect reconciliation and future support, and tho' his (Azim-al-Omra's) return to Hyderabad seems to have created great alarm and to have been opposed by a strong party at that Court, yet the latest advices from Major Kirkpatrick give reason to think it would be overruled by the Nazim's wish of recovering his old minister, for which purpose he was anxiously employed in raising the sums requisite to satisfy the Sindean and Poona demands.

It should seem that the liberation of this minister through the sole influence of the Sindean chiefship is not altogether acceptable to the Bhosla and Holcar families, but there is reason to suppose that the powerful hand with which the Sindeans have hitherto borne down all opposition in much more exceptionable measures, will, with so great an accession of power and wealth as such an achievement would convey, find means of silencing or controlling those branches, if so and if they are able with their Bramin coadjutors of the present Peshwa Ministry to dissolve the combination of the Maunkurries and Baba Furkia in favour of Badjerow (still confined in Sindea's camp) I apprehend the present ruling power would have little to dread from any other quarter foreign or domestick excepting, however, the dangers incident to their society and the recent peculiar circumstances of it.

Nanna Furnavees continues to reside at Mhar as advised in my last where he is busily employed in raising troops, taking such measures as may best ensure his safety against the formidable power of his adversaries

The last advices from Major Palmer to the 25th June mention the Sics having repassed the Jumna and withdrawn to their own country and that the Marratta officers of the Sindean family were incessantly pursuing their objects of conquest and depredation which, tho' the Northern Rajas seemed unable to oppose singly or jointly, would in all human probability employ them so long as to give room for the operation of various causes in prevention of danger from them to the Hon'ble Company's territories;

which persuasion will I hope be strengthened by the unfathomable embarrassments of Doulut Row Sindia's present predicament, tho', I am free to confess, that if successfully managed, it possibly may by the ascendancy gained over the Peshwaship, afford the most dangerous addition to his northern power

The Biamin part of the present ruling power headed by Pursaram Bhou seems deficient in that force and energy which spring from genius. Pursaram Bhou is possessed of very moderate abilities which are actuated by Behroo Punt whose characteristic prudence rather leads him to shrink from responsibility than to court danger. Such traits do not seem calculated to combine or lead a party, and we accordingly find that Baba Furkia is solicitous to drop his connection with them, subjected as they are to the domineering power of the Sindian ministry, whose young chief seems, as described in a late letter from Mr Uthhoff to the Governor General, better suited for taking a decided part in turbulent times. The conspicuous figure this young man has already cut and may hereafter cut, has induced me to introduce him to your acquaintance by the enclosed copy of Mr Uthhoff's description

From the present state of the Government and affairs of the Maratta Empire that I have here had the honor to submit to you, conclusions will probably arise, that tho' by the excess of power that might be thrown into the Sindian scale by a total ascendancy over the Poona and Hyderabad Durbars, much cause of future apprehension would ensue from so formidable an accumulation of force, under the influence of so irregular an ambition as has been manifested by that family yet as the numerous obstacles that still present themselves in the open and concealed opposition that must be encountered, to effect general acquiescence in the present Peshwaship at Poona or in the re-establishment of Aazimul-Omra at Hyderabad while even in the event of these great objects being accomplished, new causes of embarrassment, discontent and dissension will be constantly springing from such discordant combinations. A rational hope of security presents itself from the circumstances of their situation, that could not be entertained from a general knowledge of the restless disposition of the Sindian family in possession of the excessive power above alluded to.

On the other hand, should the party of Badjerai and the Ex-minister gain with whatever aid the ultimate ascendancy, we may reasonably conclude that the divisions that will ensue in the course of the contest will be so serious and so durable as not only to enable us to take advantage of events as they occur, but to relieve us long from the dangers of a consolidated power, tho' doubtless even in that situation our general experience of the ministry of Nanna justifies an expectation, tho' I see no prospect of re-establishment in his former plenitude of power, of greater consistency and greater circumspection in his politics, than can be

derived from the unknown tho' very suspicious temper of less able politicians · for tho' the latter part of his ministry was marked with exceptionable traits, yet were they far removed from that kind of offence that involves hostility, and whatever estrangement occasional difference on political points may have produced, his late proposals alluded to in the former part of this letter, convey the most convincing proof of his respect for our national character and of his readiness to make us the arbiters of the fortunes and interests of himself, his master, and his country, thereby furnishing us at least an option of excluding Tippoo from that concert with him which is reported to be in negotiation.

In a word, Hon'ble Sir, by a speedy observance of the wise system of neutrality prescribed by the Governor General, we seem hitherto to have preserved the respect of all parties ; and while by such conduct an opening is reserved, should imperious necessity so dictate, for introducing our interposition with all possible weight and authority on either side to preserve an interest in a re-settlement of the Government, the prospect of protracted dissension, should we continue to decline interference, affords in any point of view that can be taken of the present state of Marhatta affairs, a reasonable confidence that the tranquility of the Hon'ble Company's possessions will not be suddenly interrupted from that quarter.

By letters from Major Kirkpatrick subsequent to my last address I collect that the Nazim's indisposition had taken rather an unfavourable turn, tho' not so as to threaten immediate danger. The Roy Royan's influence, under whose ministry a more intimate understanding had been cultivated between the Nazim and Tippoo Sultan, seemed to be rapidly on the decline through the intrigues of Imtiaz-ul-Doula, his Highness's nephew, who seems to have been principally instrumental in the recall of Aazim-ul-Omra under some contradictory circumstances of political opinion ; for Imtiaz-ul-Doula has hitherto been supposed to be warmly attached to the interest of Tippoo Sultan, whose last delegate to the Court of Hyderabad, Medina Saib was introduced through his mediation on the 24th ultimo, on the dismissal of Kauder Hussain who had preceded him, under the patronage of the Roy Royan. whereas the personal antipathy of Tippoo Sultan and Aazimul-Omra has hitherto been understood to be a principal bar to cordial intercourse between these two Mahomedan Governments, which, it is to be hoped, Imtiaz-ul-Doula will not be able to reconcile.

With respect to Tippoo Sultaun our intelligence is less copious and less authentic than from any other quarters. What has come to my knowledge is chiefly through Major Kirkpatrick, which certainly furnishes ground to conclude, that he is busily occupied in military preparations and that he is not amicably disposed towards us. But tho' I can most readily admit the existence of such a disposition, I must confess myself very doubtful of his carrying it to the length of intended hostility in concert with the

French against the British Nation, intelligence of which has reached the Company's governments in this country, for allowing in the fullest extent his enmity, he cannot be unmindful of the issue of his former connections with France under the most unfavourable circumstances to us, nor insensible to the present precarious state of their power in Europe, its annihilation in this country, and of our increase of power on that annihilation. These considerations, it may reasonably be supposed, under the influence of his recent experience of the superiority of our arms, will induce a considerable degree of circumspection on risking a new war with us on such a dependency, while his utmost attention to military preparation appears to be very naturally accounted for by the distractions of the neighboring governments of Poona and Hyderabad, that may in a moment throw the whole extent of their respective dominions into utter confusion, which, as it would probably involve a dissolution of all guarantee engagements, he will not, I humbly presume, be very scrupulous of converting, as far as possible, to his advantage to these sentiments. With respect to Tippe Sultan it may be necessary to add that as I am totally uninformed respecting the Company's affairs on the Mallabar Coast, my opinion is formed under a total ignorance of any measures of an hostile tendency that may have appeared or been suspected between that prince and the Rajas of that very vulnerable part of the Hon'ble Company's territories.

In confirmation of the good will and respect entertained toward the Hon'ble Company's Government by the different parties in the Marratta Government, it may not be improper to mention that peremptory orders have been lately issued by the Peshwa's and Sindia's Ministers in correction of some improprieties in the conduct of their respective Aumildars on the sea coast and in the neighbourhood of Surat, arising probably from the relaxation attendant on the late revolutions; also to the commanders of the troops employed against Nanna Furnaveese to respect the neutrality of the Company's neighbouring districts of Fort Victoria. While both parties have directed their posts and military stations through which our cossids with the mails to and from Madras and Calcutta necessarily pass, not to molest or interrupt them, tho' it cannot be denied but that these marks of attention are fully due to the liberal spirit of mediation and reconciliation, that the Governor General has evinced to both parties during their dissensions and to benevolence with which he has expressed his readiness to give the ex-Minister Nanna Furnavees an asylum in the Company's dominions in the event of the acquiescence of the ruling Peshwa rendering such an indulgence compatible with the covenants of the two states.

**No. 318**—Malet writing from Bombay to Kirkpatrick discusses the situation at Poona and points out how the British interests would be affected. A very searching analysis of the past achievements and present weaknesses of Nana Fadnis is supplied in this paper.

FROM—C. W MALET,

TO—MAJOR WILLIAMS KIRKPATRICK.

*Bombay, 20 August 1796.*

I have already had the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant

Though I have deemed it incumbent to write very fully to the Governor General on the state of parties at this Court (his instructions of the first ultimo strongly enjoin) in which it was impossible to refrain from many observations extremely unfavourable to the present ruling parties here, yet I mean not thereby in any degree to urge or insinuate the desirableness of the re-establishment of the authority and influence of Nana Farnavees in the Maratta empire in the degree that they existed during the latter part of the life of the late Peshwa Mhaddow Rao Narayan, which appeared to be really formidable and unfriendly towards the Company, though it must be confessed without any decided overt acts of enmity. It also seems to deserve to be adverted to, that, though Nana Farnavees had great reason during the troubles of Raghoba to be very much incensed against the Company from the party they espoused to the extremity of hostility in opposition to him, yet did he for upwards of ten years after that period maintain a connection with the Company without in any manner connecting himself with Tippoo that was highly beneficial to both states. The Brahmin and the Sindian parties by the mode of establishing their present power,—the chief if not the only criterion by which we can yet judge of them,—have not given us a very favourable impression of their equity or of the conduct that we have to expect from them, should they ever have it in their power to aggrandise themselves at our expense. The probability of the re-establishment of the indisputably rightful Peshwa Badirou, who, we have reason to think, is rather favourably disposed than otherwise towards us and whose cause appears to be espoused by personages of so much consideration in the empire as Nana Farnavees, Baba Furkia Tukoji Holkar, the Mankurries and the community in general (to say nothing of Dowlut Row Sindia himself, Raghooji Bhosla, Govin Row Guykwar etc.), renders advisable a very guarded conduct on our part towards and should preclude our committing ourselves too far with the present Government. On the whole, however, impartiality towards all parties in the state and preserving, if we can, the balance of power among them without committing ourselves, is perhaps the conduct we could adopt. For in fact our best if not our only effectual security which is our grand object against the

Marattas (whatever may be the state of their Government) is their weakness or incapacity to molest us. Acknowledging the present Peshwa to the extent of preserving the accustomed intercourse between foreign states, and security to our own subjects and a friendly but not a close connection with all the great members of the Mahratta Empire, seem conformable to the dignified line of forbearance from interference in the domestic affairs of the Marhattas adopted by the Governor General, and the best proof of the wisdom of which is that, during the many revolutions and jarring interests in this quarter for these ten months past, the Company's interests have been promoted rather than injured or even subjected to inconvenience.

But Nana Furnavees from a long continued and uninterrupted enjoyment of sway in the Maratta Empire, the depression of the very formidable power of Tippoo, the complete ascendancy acquired over Nizam Ali Khan, the removal by death of the only two personages who can be considered in any degree as his rivals in the state, Mahadjee Sindia and Hurry Punt Furkia, and the ambitious intriguing suggestions of the two Govinrous, did in some degree depart from consistency and moderation in his conduct and designs towards the British power in India. Besides yet, though he should be able to get the better of his present adversaries the Brahmin and the Sindian parties, it seems not likely that at his time of life and after his late humiliation he should under such a Peshwa as Badjnou, and with so many enemies as the late revolutions have engendered, ever again acquire the degree of authority and influence that he professed during the latter part of the lifetime of the late Peshwa, and that it should serve so formidable and unfriendly to the Company, unless indeed he should be driven to connect himself too closely with Tippoo and the French, which does not appear to be yet the case and to counteract which may perhaps hereafter become an object of consideration, but does not appear to be so at present, though a point of which we should not even now be totally regardless. Besides Nana's authority and influence will cease at his death (an event that may be expected at no very distant period), for he has not any children to inherit, and his nearest connection is Moroba Furnavees a cousin who has been for many years a state prisoner and is now confined in the fort of Ahmednagar. I trust, Sir, you will do me the justice to believe that I have been induced to trouble you with the above more with a view of endeavouring to afford us the satisfaction of reflecting that the re-establishment of the authority and influence of Nana Furnavees (an event that may possibly occur) is not likely to prove formidable and unfriendly to the Company than with a view of calling into question the justness of the opinion conveyed in your letter of the 5th instant.



**No. 319**—Uthoff writes to Kirkpatrick on the release of Azim-ul-Omra and its probable consequences to the two states and the various parties.

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—MAJOR WILLIAM KIRKPATRICK.

*Poona, 20 August 1796*

I sent a message to Azim-ul-Omra that Sir Charles Malet's Munshy would attend him as soon as he might be at leisure to receive him and the ensuing morning being appointed, the Munshy waited upon him with the following message from me :

Sir Charles Malet's Munshy, on his return from Azim-ul-Omra brought me a message to the following purport In answer to my friendly query of the probable period of his (Azim-ul-Omra's) return to Hyderabad, that orders had been issued for troops to join him from Nizam Ally Khan's country, that he was raising some here and that from the friendly connexion existing between him and the Bramin and Sindean parties, they could not object to his collecting troops, but that when he had assembled from five to ten thousand, they would no longer be desirous of keeping him here, that besides, the money that was on its way with Roshun Roy from Hyderabad to Poona would probably by this time have reached Tuljapore, and that after payment of it here, he should strenuously urge his dismissal which he did not think would be long delayed, that he was desirous of filling up this interval in friendly visits and other conspicuous mark of friendship between him and the principal personages here, that in respect to the confidential communication, on which he was desirous of ascertaining the sentiments of the Company's Government, he observed, that there were now two grand parties in the Marratta Empire, one headed by Doulut Rou Sindea and Pursaram Bhou, and the other by Nana Furnavees, who was thought to be supported by Baba Furkia and others, that he wished to know the Company's intentions, in respect to Nanna Furnavees, for that if they supported him, they would doubtless from the close connexion between them and Nizam Ally Khan, require the co-operation of His Highness. whereas on the other hand, the opposite party might also require the assistance of His Highness, for which they would probably make considerable concessions of territory and money to His Highness, which could not but be highly advantageous to him; that under these circumstances, he (Azim-ul-Omra) was desirous of knowing the Company's sentiments to enable him to steer such a course as would avoid giving offence either to the Company, or to the Bramin and Sindean parties here. Both at this and the former visit, Azim-ul-Omra laid great stress on the long and close friendship between the Company and Nizam Ally Khan having been cemented and strengthened by him. Azim-ul-Omra perused your letter in the presence of Sir Charles Malet's

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\* See the following No. 320.

Munshy, and observed, that you had referred to Meer Allum for particulars, but that he had not heard from him on the subject.

It is at present my intention to acquaint Azim-ul-Omra, that I had submitted his friendly query to the Governor General, and that, in the interim of an answer, I could take upon myself to assure him that that line of conduct would be most acceptable to us which promised the most solid and permanent prosperity to the Government of Nizam Ally Khan, to which the Company were sincere friends, that I begged leave to submit to him my opinion that his early return to Hyderabad and reinstatement in his former situation in the Government of Nizam Ally Khan, appeared to me the most effectual mode of promoting this object, which was in the highest degree desirable to both states

It is proper I should notice to you in this place that reports are very prevalent here that Azim-ul-Omra has expressed a wish to act in person against Nanna Furnavees, which I must confess, would not, I apprehend, tend to the credit or advantage either of himself or Nizam Ally Khan

It is proper I should also mention to you that doubts are entertained in this quarter of the return of Azim-ul-Omra to Hyderabad and reinstatement in his former situation in the Government of Nizam Ally Khan, which are founded on the following circumstances. The opposition thereto, prosecuted in various ways, by Tukojee Holkar, Ragojee Bhonsla's agent here, the open and secret adherents of Nanna Furnavees and many other persons, to which, may be added, the opposition of several persons of consequence in the Government of Nizam Ally Khan. It appears to me likely that the Bramin and Sindean parties will not give Azim-ul-Omra his dismissal till they have secured the actual receipt of a large sum of money, after which the policy of his reinstatement, rather than good faith, will probably become an object of consideration with them : on which occasion, the opposition to the measure here and at Hyderabad will have great weight, which will probably be increased by tempting offers to the Bramin and Sindean parties to prevent his reinstatement in his former situation in the Government of Nizam Ally Khan.

While Sir Charles Malet's Munshy was with Azim-ul-Omra, Mallojee Raja,\* a Maratta Chief of considerable consequence, and esteemed the head of the Mankurries, paid a visit to Azim-ul-Omra, and presented him a Nuzzer. Azim-ul-Omra's adherents say that he was formerly in the service of Nizam Ally Khan; that he expresses dissatisfaction at his present situation, and a wish to accompany Azim-ul-Omra to Hyderabad. On the 19th also the agents at this court of Ragojee Bhonsla paid a visit to Azim-ul-Omra. Azim-ul-Omra made complimentary presents of some value both to Mallojee Raja and to Ragojee Bhonsla's agents. He has not presented a Nuzzur on any occasion since his enlargement. It is expected that Pursaram Bhow will this day (the 20th) pay a visit to Azim-ul-Omra

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\* Ghorpade of Mudhol

**No. 320**—This is a message to Azim-ul-Omra, communicated by Uthhoff on the former's release from confinement at Poona. The message is alluded to in the previous paper.

*Message from Uthhoff to Azim-ul-Omra*

*Poona, 20 August 1796*

That it was with much satisfaction I received his friendly message by Sir Charles Malet's Munshi, that though some cessation had much to our concern taken place in our friendly intercourse with him, yet that the continuous friendship towards him was not the less sincere, the value of which profession he must be competent to judge from his penetration and long intimate acquaintance with people who were not in the habit of making invidious or hollow professions of friendship. That if he thought proper to make the confidential communications he had alluded to, they would doubtless meet with due attention from the Company coming as they did from so old and so good a friend. That it was much my wish to maintain a constant friendly intercourse with him but that the delicacy and criticalness of the times might possibly check it which I (conceive), he would not misconstrue into indifference or neglect, that I have duly forwarded his letter to Sir Charles Malet at Bombay, but that time did not yet admit of the arrival of an answer. That I had already conveyed to him Sir Charles Malet's and Major Kirkpatrick's congratulations on the favourable change in his situation and that I had now the pleasure to present him a letter from the latter gentleman to his address. That since Sir Charles Malet's Munshi's last visit to me I had not received any papers of intelligence from Hyderabad or I should with pleasure submit them to his perusal, that I had already had the satisfaction to advise the Governor General, Sir Charles Malet and Major Kirkpatrick, of his entering his tents, and the honourable reception he had met with from the Peshwa, Dowlut Rao Sindia and their ministry, and that I was extremely desirous of conveying the further satisfactory information of the probable period (the earlier the more gratifying to us) of his return to Hyderabad, in which point he would favour me with communication.

**No. 321**—Uthhoff reports to the Governor General a full account of the troubles prevailing at the Court of Poona due to mutual animosities between the various parties.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

*Poona, 23 August 1796.*

On the 21st I received a note to the following purport from Gunput Row, Colonel Palmer's Agent with Dowlut Row Sindia. That being summoned to the Durbar, the following communication was made to him, in the presence of Dowlut Row, Baloo Tantea, Bhow Bukshy, &c. That Baajy Row of his own free will, had come thither (to Sindia's) and

that the installation of Chirna Appa as Peshwa, was effected with the assent of the great chiefs of the Empire, and of the widow of the late Peshwa Mhadoo Row Narrain. That with this, we (the Company) were acquainted. That it was their (Sindea's) wish, to shew every attention to Baajy Row, and to render his situation agreeable to him. That Doulut Row paid his respects in person to him (Baajy Row) every day, and that it was in agitation to grant a Jagheer for his maintenance. But that he (Baajy Row) is intriguing, by letter and message, with many different persons, and endeavouring to entice their own (Sindea's) people to become his adherents. That when he first came, he had but a few attendants, but that he has now 3 or 400, and is raising more. That he does not attend to what they (Sindea) recommend to him, but that he has adopted a new line of conduct. That it was proper for him (Gunput Rae) to represent this to me, and to include it in his papers of intelligence to Calcutta.

I have desired Gunput Rae, with my compliments to Doulut Row Sindea and his Ministry, to acknowledge the receipt of the above message, which appears to be the only notice necessary at present to be taken of it.

It can hardly be necessary to observe, that Baajy Row has not at any period since his confinement on the 9th of May last, been at all satisfied with or reconciled to his situation. A few days ago, on some Hindoo festival, he expressed a wish to bathe in the river Moota Moola, which runs close to Doulut Row Sindea's encampment. This was at first strongly objected to by Sindea's ministry, but on Baajy Row's resenting it highly, permission was at length given, strong parties of troops being posted on each bank of the river. Baajy Row, for two or three days afterwards, refused to have any victuals dressed for him; was with difficulty prevailed upon to take even the slightest sustenance, has weapons always within his reach, and his adherents, to the number of 2 or 300, are constantly near his person, in a state of preparation. He requires, that the guards over him should be removed, and that Doulut Row should, on oath, assure him, that he should be allowed, without molestation, to repair to Benares, or to some other places, and to enjoy in retirement the society of his adopted brother Emrut Row. It does not, however, by any means follow, that these are his real sentiments and that he has relinquished all idea of assuming his sovereignty. The reverse, indeed, seems the most probable. Without troubling you, Honourable Sir, with more minute traits, suffice it to say, that the situation of Baajy Row appears to be extremely critical.

The adherents of Baajy Row and Nana, viz. Baba Farkia, Tuckojee Holkar, the Mancoories and the chiefs of the Huzarat troops are collecting all their people as fast as possible, making new levies; and keep in a constant state of preparation. Pursaram Bhou remonstrated with them but in vain. A body of about a thousand horse were assembled by Pursaram Bhou a few nights ago, thought to be with an intent of seizing

Neelkant Rou Purbhoo one of the principal chiefs of the Huzrat troops but as he was found to be perfectly on his guard, the attempt was abandoned. One of principal Karkuns of Mallojee Raja, the head of the Mankurries was seized by the Bramin Party the night of the 21st. Mr. Boyd, an American, who commands a corps of about 12 or 1,500 men, had a long conference on the 20th with Baba Fulkia, in whose interest he is supposed to be. Azim-ul-Omra is under alarm. Many of Sindea's troops have joined the opposite party.

It is confidently reported, that Nanna Furnavees is in motion towards Pannella or Sattarra. The latter fort is about sixty miles to the northward of the former. Reports are in circulation, that Nanna Furnavees has gained some further advantages over his antagonists, and that the Sindean ministry have some thoughts of deposing their present master Doulut Rou in favor of Siddoojee Deysmookh eldest son of the late Lanoojee Deysmookh who was married to Ballabyhe, the only daughter of the late Maharaja Sindea, who (Siddoojee) has (not yet) attained the age of puberty.

It is evidently very much the wish of the Bramin and Sindean parties to convey Baajy Rou to Jamgaun, but they are kept in check by the coolness (to say the least of it) of Doulut Rou Sindea, the determined refusal of Baajy Rou to submit to it and the opposition to it that may be expected to the extremity of hostility by the Mankurries and Hazrat troops. Attempts to assassinate Baajy Rou have been talked of but I do not give implicit credit thereto.

It is reported, but I cannot pretend to say with what truth, that on advice of Azim-ul-Omra's enlargement reaching Ragojee Bhonsla he had observed, that it was almost equivalent to a declaration of war against him by the Bramin and Sindean parties here.

Azim-ul-Omra having expressed some anxiety for an early answer to his last message to me, I, on the 23rd, deputed Sir Charles Malet's Munshy to him with a communication to the purport mentioned in the 4th paragraph of my letter to the Resident at Hyderabad of the 20th instant; adding, that I trusted he (Azim-ul-Omra) would not take amiss the freedom of my representation, but impute it to the true cause, the sincerity of the company's friendship, and their anxiety for his welfare, and the prosperity of the Government of Nizam Ally Khan.

The Bramin and Sindean parties appearing, from apprehension of the consequences, to have, for the present, abandoned their design of sending Baajy Rou to Jamgaun by force, affairs here have a more tranquil appearance within these few hours, but military preparation and alarm are still very general here. The message to me, through Gunput Rae, considering the late reserve towards us of the Bramin and Sindean parties, in respect to the state of the domestic affairs of the Mahratta empire, looked much like a prelude to, and a kind of apology to us for proceeding to extremities against Baajy Rou.

## No. 322—

*Extract from a letter from Mr. J. Uhthoff, Assistant to the  
Resident at Poona, to the Governor General,  
dated the 27th October 1796.*

(For the sake of chronology this should be read after No. 326)

TO—THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BT., GOVERNOR GENERAL,  
FORT WILLIAM.

Hon'ble Sir,

My last address was dated the 25th instant

Just before day light this morning, I received a communication from Azim-ul-Omrah, that Dowlut Row Sindea had, in the course of the night advised him of his having put his principal ministers in confinement desiring him (Azim-ul-Omra) to send Narroo Punt Chukhurdew with troops into Poona for the security of the City Narroo Punt Chukhurdew is one of the principal Civil Officers under the Furkia family, who during the late seizures here took protection in Azim-ul-Omra's Camp.

Large bodies of the troops of Dowlut Row Sindea, Azim-ul-Omra and others, adverse to the late ruling party here, are now in Poona. Among the many rumours in circulation the following appear the most authentic That Pursaram Bhow with Bhasker Pundit and many of his adherents and troops, quitted Poona in the course of the night carrying Chimna Appa with them They are said to have proceeded in the direction of Tasgaun, and to have been overtaken about 15 miles hence, by a body of cavalry despatched after them where both parties had halted, by the last accounts, among the many persons seized and confined in Poona, is Behroo Pundit. A party is said to have been despatched to the fort of Chaukun, to release Baba Furkia His brother Mahadoo Row, Narroo Punt Chukhurdew, Trimbuck Row Purchora, and Bapoo Lula, are at present the principal Bramin leaders in Poona

Since writing the above, I have the most authentic intelligence, that Balloo Tantia, Bhow Bukshy, and Doondebau are in confinement, and that the new leading Sindian party is headed by Narrain Row Bukshy and Rajee Patell The flight of Pursaram Bhow with Chimna Appa and the confinement of Behroo Pundit are confirmed beyond doubt.

No. 323—Malet writing to the Court of Directors explains his absence from Poona and proposes to return to that place.

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS, LONDON.

*Bombay, 31st August 1796.*

Tho' for several preceding days the mimical appearances of the rival parties in the city and environs of Poona threatened inevitable hostility, yet by a letter from Mr. Uhthoff dated the 27th instant received this

morning, I learn the probability of their being prevented for the present by the seizure of Badjerou and some of his principal adherents by the Ministers of Doulut Rou Sindea on that day

But tho' the horrors of domestic discord may by these decided measures be for the present averted from the environs of Poona, it by no means follows that the seeds of discontentment and dissension so generally diffused throughout the empire, will be thereby prevented from producing a future crop of serious confusion.

My health has been so much improved by the air of this place that in the event of affairs at Poona taking so settled and consistent a form under either of the competitors as to entitle it to a discontinuance of the reserve and caution so justly recommended in the Governor General's latest instructions, I should feel no difficulty in returning to go through the formalities of acknowledgment and to confirm the habits of friendship and good understanding that have so happily subsisted during my Residency, and to which our claim from both parties is founded on the best possible basis of inflexible rectitude and undeviating good faith. In the mean time the frequent occasion I have had to mention of Mr. Uhthoff's prudence and abilities makes it unnecessary to repeat, that my confidence therein relieves me from the smallest regret on account of my absence at a period when my presence could operate no good effect and must, as explained in my address of 17th ult., have been attended with circumstances of awkwardness and embarrassment, while the short distance of a two days' journey makes me master of emergencies.

**No. 324**—Uhthoff mentions that a British trading vessel was captured and detained by the Subhedar of Gheria.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—JONATHAN DUNCAN, GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, BOMBAY.

*Poona, 5th September 1796.*

Previous to the receipt of the abovementioned papers, I had learnt through private channels, that a vessel supposed to be British property had, by stress of weather, been driven into Gheria, where it was apprehended she would be detained: in consequence of which I immediately made a representation to the Durbar on the subject, and requested that enquiry might be made of the agents here of the Subadar of Gheria and of Dulup the Commander of the fleet; but in answer I was told that no information whatever on the subject could be obtained here.

The requisite representations shall be made to the Durbar on the points contained in the three abovementioned letters, but I beg to submit to you, Honourable Sir, that, independent of those delays and evasions, in which the Poona Government almost invariably involve all our representations on similar points, I have reason to think, that during the present

distractions in the Marhatta Empire, the Poona Government do not possess an effectual control over the Subadar of Gheria or Dulup, who, I understand, are both in the interest of Nanna Furnavees. Under these circumstances, it appears to me, that a direct representation from the Honourable the Governor to the Subadar of Gheria and Dulup, would probably be attended with considerable good effect, much more so, indeed than any representation, under present circumstances to the Poona Government.

**No. 325**—Uthoff mentions that the G. G. had acknowledged the succession of Chimnaji Madhavrao to the Peshwaship.

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—LORD HOBART, GOVERNOR OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

*Poona, 1st October 1796.*

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Secretary Jackson's letter to Sir Charles Malet of the 13th instant since my last address of the 24th Ultimo.

I have this day delivered to the Peshwa Chimna Mhadoo Rou, and his Prime Minister Pursaram Bhou, letters from the Governor General and the Governor of Bombay, in answer to those announcing Chimna Mhadoo Rou's accession to the Peshweship. I observed to the Durbar, that if their letters to your Lordship on the same subject had been delivered to me for transmission, I might have had the honour to present your Lordship's answers on this occasion.

The professions of friendship towards the Company on the part of the Peshwa and Pursaram Bhou, were perfectly satisfactory.

Azim-ul-Omia has assured me that his utmost endeavours shall be exerted to obtain the revocation of the order for the dismissal of the Madras Detachment acting with Nizam Ally Khan.

On the 28th ultimo, Baba Furkia, eldest son of the late Hurry Pundit, was seized by the ruling power here and it is expected that most of the other adherents in this quarter of Baajy Rou and Nanna Furnavees, will, ere long be seized, abscond, or make terms for themselves with the ruling power here.

**No. 326**—Uthoff mentions that the two British vessels Madhav Prasad and Sonai Daulat captured by the Marathas have been ordered to be restored.

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—JONATHAN DUNCAN, GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, BOMBAY.

*Poona, 4th October 1796*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th Ultimo, and to enclose an order from the Peshwa Chimna Mhadoo Rou



to the Subadar of Gheria for the release of the ship Henry and for the delivery of the Cargo of the Mhadoo Pursaud

Though from this Durbar not at present possessing an effectual control over the Subadar of Gheria, the Peshwa's order may not be instantly complied with, yet it will at least strengthen the representation made on the subject by the Honourable the President, and preclude the Marratta Officers at Gheria from urging against affording us reparation their usual plea of the want of orders from Poona. The Peshwa's order for the delivery of the Cargo of the Mhadoo Pursaud is further peculiarly acceptable as substantiating our claim on a very delicate and important point, as stated in your letter to me of the 23rd of August last

I have been informed that the Subadar of Gheria has granted permission to the Sonac Doulut to quit that port, but that the Captain thought proper to remain there on account of some articles that had been taken out of the vessel. I trust, however, that he has ere now taken his departure from Gheria. The articles taken out of the vessel may become a subject of future discussion

On the 1st instant I presented to the Peshwa Chimna Mhadoo Rou and to Pursaram Bhou the letters from the Hon'ble the President of the 19th of August last, in answer to those announcing the accession of the former to the Musnud. The professions of friendship towards the Company made to me on this occasion by the Peshwa and Parashuram Bhou were perfectly satisfactory.

**No. 327**—Uthhoff reports to G. G. the flight of Chimna Appa and Parashuram Bhou from Poona to Junnar and the likelihood of Bajrao becoming the Peshwa.

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 30th October 1796.*

I had the honour to address you per express the 27th instant. The same evening Baba Furkia (having been released at Chaukun) arrived in town, after paying a visit to Tukojee Holkar, as he passed his camp. The next day Baba Furkia visited Doulut Row Sindea. Baba Furkia is at present the leading person in Poona. His party have materially tainted their cause, by unnecessary and mean severities towards the opposite party, particularly to Behroo Pundit, who has been put in irons, and subjected to personal abuse and even corporal punishment. Many other Bramins also have experienced a similar fate, though somewhat less severe, among the rest, Buchajee, Behroo Pundit's brother.

It appears that both the Bramin and Sindean parties were totally ignorant of the plot in agitation against them, and that they were completely taken by surprise. Baloo Tantia and Doandebau were engaged in private conversation, when a guard was placed over them by Mozuffur Khan, by Doulut Row Sindea's order. Bhow Bukshy was in Doulut Rou's

tents, where a guard was placed over him, which, I am informed, has since been withdrawn, and there is even some prospect of his continuing in the ministry. Pursaram Bhou, on learning the seizure of Balloo Tantea immediately proceeded from his own house in Poona to the Peshwa's palace, whence he took Chimna Appa, putting him on the same horse with one of his sons, or of one of his most trusty adherents Pursaram Bhou, with a few followers instantly proceeded to his camp near the town, and collecting the choice part of his cavalry, struck off to the westward, and then making a circuit to the northward, is said to have gone in the direction of Juneer. Large bodies of the cavalry of Azim-ul-Omra, the Mankurries, the Furkia Family etc., under Mhadoo Rou Furkia, Naroo Punt Chukhurdew, Appa Bulwint, Mallojee Raja, and other chiefs, pursued Pursaram Bhou, and soon came within sight of his party, consisting of about 2 or 3,000 horse. Pursaram Bhou's party kept their opponents at a distance by firing upon them, which the latter refrained from returning, ostensibly from the apprehension of an accident happening to Chimna Appa. Fresh parties of horse were yesterday detached hence in pursuit of Pursaram Bhou, and many of those who went the preceding day are returned with Mhadoo Rou Furkia.

A little time will develop other parts of this revolution, in which Govin Pingleh is said to have materially assisted. Baajy Rou is said to have been sent for from Jamgaum by Doulut Row, and it is expected that Nanna Funnavees will be re-established in the ministry.

Pursaram Bhou has with him his two sons, and most of his own immediate adherents. His camp, with the exception of the best of the cavalry, was plundered and also that of Sreeput Rou, his nephew, lately appointed Subadar of Guzerat, who with about 1,500 followers, was within eight or ten miles of Poona. On the 27th Perron's Brigade was at Yewut, about 30 miles to the eastward of Poona, and has since joined Doulut Row Sindea's Camp.

No communication on the subject of the revolution has yet been made to me either by Doulut Rou Sindea or Baba Furkia; and I have hitherto refrained from sending any message to either.

In reply to Azim-ul-Omra's message mentioned in the 2nd paragraph of my last address with acknowledgments for the communication of such important intelligence, I observed, that availing myself of the unreserved friendly communication which subsisted between us, I begged to submit to him, that it would be creditable to him and in every respect becoming and advantageous, that he should prevent his troops from committing any outrages in Poona. I further remarked that if he had established any merit with the new ascendant party in the Maratta Empire, and could obtain any favorable conditions from them, the grandest object of his consideration appeared to be to relieve Nizam Ally Khan's Government from the innumerable vexatious claims and officers that the Mahrattas had established throughout his Highness' country.

Azim-ul-Omra replied, that his troops were employed in Poona by the desire of Doulut Rou Sindea, and that the most positive orders had been issued, in prevention of their molesting the peaceable inhabitants. He added, that doubtless the Nizam's advantage would be duly considered

I must do Azim-ul-Omra's troops the justice to say that I have not yet heard of their committing any excesses in Poona, of the occurrence of which I must confess that I was apprehensive

On the 26th instant, Soobrou, who pretends to be the Vakeel of Ram Raja of Travancore, came to the house of one of Sir Charles Malet's clerks in town, and expressed a wish to have a meeting with me. I observed in reply, that no communication respecting him had been made to me, either by the Madras Government or Ram Raja, and that I therefore at present declined a meeting with him, but that if he had any particular communication to make to me, he might mention it to Sir Charles Malet's clerk. I have not since heard from him

My intelligence at the period of the close of this letter induces me to conceive that Baajy Rou will be placed on the Musnud, and that Nanna Furnavees and Abba Chitnavees will be reinstated in their ministerial situation. It is very confidentially affirmed that Pursaram Bhow is in the town of Juneer, so situated as to be at the mercy of the opposite party, with whom he was negotiating through Appa Bulwunt. The treatment of the ex-party in Poona is become more lenient

**No 328**—Uththoff gives circumstantial details of the revolution at Poona in which the party of Baloba Tatya was put down by that of Nana Fadnis

FROM—J. UTHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART. GOVERNOR GENERAL

*Poona, 1st November 1796.*

On the 30th ultimo, the date of my last address, I sent message to Doulut Rou Sindea and Azim ul Omra, requesting a communication from them for the information of you, Hon'ble Sir, on the subject of the late revolution and the present state of affairs here.

The next morning Azim-ul-Omra sent me an answer to the following purport. That the night of the 26th ultimo, a Maratta Chief, named Annajec, with about fifty horse, came to his camp saying he had a communication to make to him (Azim-ul-Omra) on the part of Doulut Row Sindea. That he then delivered a note from Doulut Rou (of which a translation is enclosed) and a letter from Nizam Ally Khan, directing him (Azim-ul-Omra) to act agreeably to the engagements that might take place between Nanna Furnavees and Doulut Rou Sindea. Azim-ul-Omra added, that Doulut Rou wrote at the same time to Appa Bulwunt and Narroo Punt Chukhur dew to act agreeably to the engagements between him (Doulut Rou) and Nanna. That Doulut Rou at the same time wrote

to Pursaram Bhow, that having discovered the treachery of his Prime Minister, Balloo Tantea, he had put him in confinement, desiring him (Pursaram Bhow) not to be uneasy, for that the engagements between them were still in force. This note was entrusted to Appa Bulwunt, who delivered it to Pursaram Bhow, and at the same time shewed him the note that Doulut Rou had written to himself. Pursaram Bhow then desired Appa Bulwunt to go to Doulut Rou Sindea and Govin Pingleh (who was present) to go to Azim-ul-Omra and to assure them of his (Pursaram Bhow's) attachment. That immediately after dispatching them, Pursaram Bhow prepared for flight. Azim-ul-Omra assured me that this was all he knew of the affair and that he was ignorant of Nanna's negotiations with Nizam Ally Khan at Hyderabad, as well as of his Highness having entrusted to Doulut Rou his orders to him (Azim-ul-Omra) to be delivered at the crisis in question. It can hardly be necessary to comment on the evasive and ' ' ' misrepresentation of the above message.

Azim-ul-Omra added that as I had not made any communication to him relative to the concerted letter from Pursaram Bhow to Tippoo, on the subject of the latter's military preparations, he concluded that no such letter had been yet written, and that it in consequence appeared advisable for me to represent to Nanna Furnavees, who was now to be considered as the executive minister of the Marratta State, the propriety of his writing a similar letter to Tippoo.

With due acknowledgment to Azim-ul-Omra, for his detail of what had of late occurred in this quarter, I observed that his communication contained nothing on the subject of the present state of affairs here, nor of the future settlement of the Government, on which points, no communication had yet been made to me from any quarter, that I was unacquainted whether or not Pursaram Bhow had written the letter in question to Tippoo, for the ascertainment of which and the negotiation of some other points of the public business Sir Charles Malet's Munshy was to have had a meeting with Behroo Pundit on the very morning of the revolution. That under my ignorance of the real situation of affairs here and the evident unsettled state of the Government, it appeared advisable to defer taking any measure on the point in question, till the affairs of this quarter were in some order.

It is a generally received opinion here that the country ceded to the Marrattas by the convention of Kurdla, is to be restored to Nizam Ally Khan; and there can scarcely be any doubt that Azim-ul-Omra has been not only privy to but a principal actor in the late revolution here.

In the morning of the 30th ultimo I received a message from Baba Furkia that Kishen Rou, the brother of Gopaul Rou (the principal Munshy of the Government) was on his way to pay me a complimentary visit on his part. Accordingly in about a quarter of an hour he came and after the usual compliments, assured me that both Nanna Furnavees and

Baba Furkia were deeply impressed with the friendly conduct that had been observed towards them by Sir Charles Malet and me during the distractions in the Empire. I observed that the Company's conduct was regulated by regard to their treaties and friendship with the Marhatta State, in which Baba Furkia might be assured that there could not be any deviation on our part. He then expressed Baba Furkia's earnest desire that I should pay him a visit. I replied in a conciliatory manner that it would at all times afford me pleasure to meet Baba Furkia as had been evinced by frequent visits to him, in particular on the late Gunnes Ceremonies, when he was somewhat in adversity, that of course, in his present prosperity it would be peculiarly pleasing to me but that at present affairs here appeared in every respect in so unsettled a state, and no communication concerning them having been made to me through Doulut Rou Sindea or any other authentic channel, it appeared advisable to defer any visit to Baba Furkia, till the affairs of the quarter might be in a more settled state.

A desultory conversation ensued on the state of affairs here, of which the following are the principal heads of his communication. That a note from Doulut Rou Sindea to Appa Bulwunt, the night of the revolution, having been intercepted and carried to Pursaram Bhou, gave the latter the first advice of what was in agitation, and afforded him leisure to make his escape with about 2,000 horse. That he was now in the town of Juneer with 4 or 500 followers, surrounded by an army of the opposite party, and that a negotiation was on foot through Appa Bulwunt. That a double dawk was stationed between Poona and Mhai, and that answers had been received the preceding day from Nanna Furnavees to the advices of the revolution here. That Abba Chitnavees was at Pannella, and expected here soon; but that Nanna's arrival here and the settlement of the Government would be deferred till Chimna Appa was brought to Poona, that Doulut Rou Sindea had sent orders for Baajy Rou (who was on his march from Jamgaum to Burhaunpore) to halt for the present.

There seems to be at present some doubt whether Baajy Row or Chimna Appa will be placed on the Musnud. It also appears that Nanna is suspicious of Doulut Rou Sindea and that he will not come hither till Abba Chitnavees is firmly established as Doulut Row Sindea's Prime Minister. If every thing is settled to Nanna's wish there is some reason to suppose that the Peishwaship may be held by Chimna Appa, who will doubtless be a more convenient instrument for Nanna than Baajy Rou, but the experience of the insurmountable difficulties that have hitherto attended the supersession of the rights of the elder brother, seems a very strong argument in favour of Baajy Rou's being placed on the Musnud.

It seems pretty clear that both Azim ul Omra and Baba Furkia are desirous of implicating me in acknowledgment of the revolution. As affairs are now situated, it surely cannot be necessary for me to adduce any arguments, in support of the conduct that I have thought it advisable to pursue, viz to refrain from participating in acknowledgment till I can receive Sir Charles Malet's sentiment thereon, and, if practicable, without giving offence to any of the parties here, to defer acknowledgment till the receipt of your commands for the regulation of the Residency under the new order of things. A visit of acknowledgment at present to Baba Furkia could not be attended with any good effect, and would probably materially lessen the weight and respectability of the Company's acknowledgment when affairs here may be in a more mature state of settlement.

In the evening of the 31st I received from Gunput Rao an answer to my message to Doulut Rou Sindca of the preceding day of which a translation is enclosed.

Ragottim Row appears to have been engaged in the late revolution. Bhow Bukshy though at large seems not to enjoy the same place in Doulut Rou's confidence and council that he did before the revolution. Bhow Furnavees who is now admitted into Doulut Rou's councils, seems to throw obstacles in the way of the new order of things, and to show some predilection for Balloo Tantea. On the 30th Baba Furkia paid a visit to Azim-ul-Omra. In the course of the night of the 31st Rung Rou Raja Behauder, one of the principal Bramin chiefs in the Empire, fled from Poona. Specie and other property to a large amount have been found in Pursaram Bhow's house in town, which in all probability will never be restored to him, even should he be able to make tolerable terms for himself.

The latest intelligence from Juneer, for the truth of which, however, I cannot vouch, is that Chimna Appa has been separated from Pursaram Bhow and taken into the hill fort of Juneer, Pursaram Bhow remaining in the town.

**No. 329**—Uththoff continues his narration of the events at Poona explaining the objects and movements of the principal actors in the revolution that was being effected.

FROM—J. UTHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, POONA.

*Poona, 5th Nov. 1796.*

Azim-ul-Omra's answer on the 4th instant to the above message was, that he had been hitherto perfectly unreserved and cordial in his communication to me, which should be continued. That it was with

much reluctance that he had engaged in the late revolution but that he was without remedy. That while the negotiation was on foot for his release, the late ruling power had promised to give him his dismissal to Hyderabad in a very few days, yet that I might have observed the vexatious manner in which he had been detained here for three months, and even then without a prospect of permission to depart. That Baajy Rou would be placed on the Musnud; that Nanna Funnavees would in a very few days come to Poorandur, and that Pursaram Bhow had made the following propositions to the opposite party — That he would deliver Chimna Appa into their hands in consideration of their allowing him (Pursaram Bhow) to retire to Benares; his sons and family to retain a creditable situation in the Murratta State, and his partisans, who had been confined, to be released. Azim-ul-Omra added that the cession of territory and money to the Murrattas by the convention of Kurdla, were to be restored to Nizam Ally Khan; that the Murratta Chout on Bidder was to be relinquished, and that he (Azim-ul-Omra) was to proceed shortly to Hyderabad. He also intimated but obscurely that there was some negotiation on foot for the introduction of the authority of the Nizam or some of his family into the northern parts of India. He told me that he understood Pursaram Bhow had not dispatched to Tippoo the concerted letter on the subject of his military preparations. He also observed that letters from Nizam Ally Khan, Imtiauz-ud-Doula, &c. for Tippoo had been sent to him, the tenor of which appeared to him to be rather too favourable towards Tippoo which he would try to devise some means of checking. He added that letters had arrived lately from Tippoo for the Court of Hyderabad, the contents of which he was not yet acquainted with. He sent for my perusal a paper of intelligence from Syringputtun, of which I will endeavour to procure a copy, though it did not contain any thing new or peculiarly interesting, except a confirmation of some parts of the intelligence of Major Doveton and Captain Macleod, with which the Madras Government have of late favored me. Azim-ul-Omra assured me that he had done every thing in his power to alleviate the sufferings of the ex-party, and that at his instance their irons had been taken off. That however it was proper for me to advert to the enmity that the Furkia Family must naturally entertain towards Behroo Pundit and his adherents. He assured me that Tippoo's propositions to the Nizam mentioned in the 6th and 7th paragraphs of my address of the 15th ultimo, had been submitted to the inspection of his Highness but that the originals were not at Poona. I must confess that I am not yet perfectly satisfied of the authenticity of the papers in question, on which point, if Major Kirkpatrick wishes for further information, I presume that there will be no objection to his consulting Meer Allum on the subject confidentially if not officially. I have already furnished Major Kirkpatrick with copies of all the papers received from Azim-ul-Omra on the 8th ultimo.

On the 4th instant, Gopaul Rou, the Durbar Munshy, wrote a note to Sir Charles Malet's Munshy, requesting on the part of Baba Furkia, that he would obtain my permission to pay him a visit in the afternoon. The Munshy accordingly waited on Baba Furkia, who (in the presence of Gopaul Rou and his brother Kishen Rou) expressed surprise and concern, that (considering the friendly conduct, which throughout the late distractions in the Maratta Empire, had been shown by Sir Charles Malet and me towards Nanna Furnavees and himself), I should now be reserved towards him and decline paying him a visit. He proceeded to observe that the cause of his having delayed to make a communication to me on the state of affairs was that he wished, in the first instance, to ascertain the sentiment of Doulut Rou Sindea and Azim-ul-Omra, and to establish a cordial understanding with them for which purpose he had visited both of them immediately after his release and had then deputed Kishen Row to me. He said that both Baajy Row and Nanna Furnavees would soon be here, and that a negotiation was on foot with Pursuram Bhow. That since his release he had not heard anything relative to Abba Chitnavees. In reply to my representation, in the spirit of the last paragraph of Sir Charles Malet's letter to me of the 31st of October, he observed that during the first hours after the revolution while he was at Chauken, some severities were exercised towards the ex-party; but that on his arrival in Poona, he had given orders to discontinue them; and that Buchajee Pundit (whom I had represented as not engaged in Durbar affairs during the ascendancy of his brother Behroo Pundit's party), would be allowed to remain, as before in his brother's house in town, over which however it would be necessary to place a guard. Gopaul Row was very lavish in his praise of the friendly conduct that had been observed by Sir Charles Malet and me toward the party of Nanna and Baba Furkia during the ascendancy of their opponents. This is the person through whom I had established an intercourse with Nanna, as mentioned in the 5th paragraph of my address of the 20th August, without however the smallest suspicion of the then ruling party, who indeed would not have had any just cause of offence against this Residency, even had they been fully acquainted with every thing that passed between Nanna and Sir Charles Malet and me.

Notwithstanding the intimations made to me by personages of so much consideration under the new order of things here, as Daulut Row Sindea, Azim-ul-Omra, and Baba Furkia, that Baajy Row is to be Peishwa, it does not at present appear to me to be by any means certain. The Furkia party (who seem to be devoted to Nanna) have shown a disposition to convey the widow of the late Peishwa Mhadoo Row to Poorandur for the purpose, it is said, of using her name for adoption of a new Peishwa should it be deemed advisable. They are likewise very anxious to get into their hands Chimna Appa who, it is said, will, in that case be conveyed to Poorandur. The best account I have been able to get of Baajy Row is that four or



five days ago, he had made one short march this way from Bellapore on the Gunga Godavery. It is said, that both Baajy Row and Emrut Row object to come to Poona till more progress is made in the settlement of the Government. There can be no doubt that Baajy Row might have been by this time at Poona had it been the wish of all parties.

Bhow Bukshy is at large but not in the confidence of Doulut Row and his new ministers, and it is expected that a large pecuniary contribution will be extorted from him. Rajee Patell is now the principal minister and the introduction of Abba Chitnavees seems yet in suspense.

Such a variety of heterogeneous interests appear to be implicated in the new order of things in this quarter, that I cannot presume to form an idea, as to when or how they are likely to be brought to a definitive settlement.

It appears that the fort of Juneer is in the possession of Pursaram Bhow; and Azim-ul-Orma has just sent me word, that he understands Pursaram Bhow's propositions are considered so unreasonable, that there is a probability of recourse being had to arms against him. Some of his family are said to be raising troops for his support in the Tasgaum quarter, but I am inclined to think, that they are not likely to make an effectual stand against the present ascendant power.

A salute was yesterday fired in Doulut Row Sindea's Camp, on account as reported of a victory obtained over a body of Rohillas, that had lately made an irruption into his territories in the Doab.

On the subject of the censures that you have of late been pleased to pass on my conduct, you will not, I trust, Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir, impute my silence to insensibility either to reproof or to the value of your good opinion, but as my conduct, in the cases in question appears happily not to have been attended with any ill consequence, nor to have unfavourable reference to futurity in a public point of view, and your judgment thereon having been already pronounced, I have thought silence, while preservable without prejudice to the interests under my charge, most respectful, and trust it will be satisfactory to you. not that I feel myself totally destitute of the means of affording explanations in mitigation at least of the weight of your censures, if not in justification of my own conduct.

**No. 330**—Bhaskar Bahuro requests Malet to interfere and prevent indignities to his father Bahuro Pant Mehendale.

*Translate of a letter from Bhascur Behroo Punt to Sir Charles  
Warre Malet, received 6th November 1796.*

After Compliments. I in company with Appa Saheb and Pursaram Punt Bhow arrived at Juneer but my Father Baba was caught in Poona and very ill treated, so I hear, which I cannot write all by letter; however must

submit to fortune, but having friends like yourself who are able to relieve from any distress, I am not afraid. This is a hard time, Sir, upon us, therefore what help or assistance you can afford, you will be pleased to do it; you are on the part of Appa Saheb, there will be nothing so difficult for you to effect. More particulars you will be informed from the Sreemunt's (Chimnaje Appa) letter. There is no time to be lost. At this time you will lay aside every other consideration; set out and send answer.—Dated 1st Jumadel Owul.—What shall I write more, keep your friendship etc.

**No. 331**—Chimnaji Appa writes to Malet requesting British friendship and help.

*Translate of Shreemunt's (Chimnaje Appajee) letter to Sir Charles Warré Malet Bart., received the 6th November 1796*

After Compliments. Ever since the death of Mahdow to this day what has happened is all well known unto you, to write at length is needless. All the young and old sirdars and the head (Mook) joined in one opinion relative to the adoption, placed me in the widows' lap, brought the Government-Keellat and gave unto me and placed me on the Musnud and Pursaiam Ramchunder was appointed to be the manager, in this manner it was settled and the Government business became current. Musheerul-Mulk was released to be appointed to the ministry of the Nazim, who engaged not to act perfidiously and swore solemnly thereto, by means of Sindeah's ministers upon which I depended. Afterward Sindeah having confined his own ministers wrote a chit to Pursaiam Ramchunder that he may be assured that there will be no alteration in engagements, notwithstanding which Musheer-ul-Mulk with a false shew of sincerity having betrayed his oath in consideration of money with treacherous intention to distress me, having joined some of my faithless adherents, with such treacherous intention, ordered guards to the palace and to the house of Pursuram Ramchunder in company and arrived at and entered the fort of Juneer. After us Appa Bulwunt etc with troops are come, within 3 coss from us and are talking on sundry points,—what will happen hereafter we shall see but this is badly done for the credit of the Government. At all events the remedy must rest with you and at this time I have no friend nor partner to assist the business but you. I see no other except yourself, knowing which I have wrote this which you will take into consideration keeping your sight on the ancient friendship. Whatever help you can render will be less than your friendship.

I received letters of congratulation of the Governors which Mr Uthhoff delivered, and you was to come with the Keelat, on which account I sent the proper passes, dustuck etc., which you must have received. That after you come, several domestic and foreign affairs would be talked about and

consulted on, with you. When this unexpected disturbance happened, in such time therefore whatever help and succour you can render you will please not to neglect. After I receive your answer I shall send a proper person to treat with you, the grand object is that what has been done is done with the opinion of all, and all friends have sent congratulations thereon, no alteration should take place therein, send answer.

Dated 1st Jumadel Avil.

**No. 332**—Malet acknowledges receipt of a letter addressed to him by Nana Fadnis.

FROM—SIR CHARLES MALET,

TO—NANA FURNAVEES.

*Bombay, 7 November 1796.*

I have been favoured with your letter of the 27th Rubbee-alawal giving account of change at Poona, before which I had received the same news and sent off the Hircarrah immediately to you, who will have reached you. By the will of God everything will be soon settled according to the welfare of the State and according to the wishes of friends What can I say more?

This moment your agent Moro Punt is arrived

**No. 333**—Nana Fadnis writes to Malet desiring a meeting with him.

*Translate of a letter from Nanna Furnavees to Sir Charles Warre Malet Bart, received the 7th November 1796 per Moro Punt*

After compliments Moro Punt came here and acquainted me all the news from you which pleased me, and in hopes of having a personal meeting with you I sent Moro Punt back to you; in the meantime arrived news from Poona, that you might be acquainted therewith I called Moro Punt back and informed him every thing that has passed there and now send him to you, who will represent all I wish much to have a meeting with you Dated 29th Rubbee-al-Sanny What shall I say more?

**No. 334**—Malet in reply to Chimnaji Appa assures him of his sympathies but refers his request for British help to the wishes of the G. G.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—CHIMNAJEE APPA.

*Bombay, 8th November 1796.*

I have been duly honored with your Highness's commands of 1st Jumad-Owal in duplicate by Ballajee Pundit and Hircarrahs giving me an account of your late departure from Poona and arrival at Juneer

which gave me great trouble and surprise, and from the desire that the Governor General has always expressed to see the tranquillity of the Mahratta Empire restored and the sincerity with which he has manifested the purest intentions of contributing thereto not only by refraining from all interference in the late unhappy differences otherwise than by the most friendly and disinterested exhortations to all parties to reconciliation and accommodation, you will be able to form an opinion how much he will be afflicted by a prospect of a continuation of disturbances so detrimental to the real welfare of the Mahratta State. I shall however lose no time in transmitting to him the substance of the communications with which your Highness has honoured me, and though from the strict caution with which the Governor General has hitherto deemed it proper to refrain from any other interference than that of good offices, I feel myself unable to speak on the subject of the aid mentioned in your commands, yet your Highness may be assured of a free and candid communication of what in his wisdom the Governor General may be pleased to prescribe to me on the subject of your application. What can I say more?

**No. 335**—Uthoff communicates to the Governor General details of the revolution brought about by Nana in favour of Bajirao, and mainly of the battle of Junnar in which Chumna Appa and Parashuram Bhau were taken prisoners. The movements of the principal actors are also narrated.

FROM—J. UNTHROFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 9th November 1796.*

My last address was dated the 5th instant.

On the 6th I sent Baba Furkia an answer to his message of the 4th, thanking him for the communication with which he had favoured me, and observing, that there did not appear to be any grounds for his friendly remonstrance on my declining to pay him a visit, that it would at all times afford me satisfaction to meet him, as had been abundantly evinced by my many visits, but that the extreme delicacy of affairs here at present unfortunately precluded it; that during the absence of a head or Prime Minister here, I trusted he would, in the way of friendship, favour me with communications on the state of affairs.

In reply Baba Furkia, though still with some dissatisfaction at my not visiting him, observed that he would not fail to furnish me with communications on the state of affairs in this quarter. That Pursaram Bhau had delivered a paper of propositions, which had been sent to Poona, whence an answer had been returned, that he was not in a situation to propose terms, having acted treasonably in carrying away by force the head of the Empire, and that all that could be granted him would be the preservation of his honour. That on this he presented another paper of

requisitions, which being deemed equally unsatisfactory recourse was had to arms, and the town of Juneer was stormed and carried, Pursaram Bhow retiring into the fort, against which guns were opened, and after firing a few hours, a message was sent out, that Chimna Appa was coming, which having taken place, Pursaram Bhow also came out, and was delivered into Rasta's charge. Baba Furkia acquainted me that the concerted letter to Tippoo on the subject of his military preparations was not yet dispatched.

Baba Furkia's account agrees pretty well with the general tenor of the rumours here. At all events this much is certain, that Chimna Appa and Pursaram Bhow are now in the hands of the present ascendant party, and it is expected that they will soon be both at Poona. Bhasker Pundit (Bheroo Pundit's son) and the rest of the principal people who were with Pursaram Bhow, are said by some to be confined in the fort of Juneer; by others, to be coming prisoners to Poona.

By a man of mine who returned from Baajy Rou's camp the 7th instant, I learn that on the 6th Baajy Rou was at Parneer, about 4 coss on this side of Jamgaum, that he was to be at Ahmedabad\* the next day, and that he may be expected in the neighbourhood of Poona on the 9th. Mypur Rou Furnavees had joined him from Doulut Rou Sindea, and the current report in camp was that he was to be Peshwa. At all events he was not under the restraint that he used to be.

The following persons have lately proceeded to join Nanna Furnavees: Hussun Khan, son of the late Ranneh Khan, on the part of Doulut Rou Sindea, Govin Pingleh, on the part of Baba Furkia, Parajee Pundit, on the part of Tukojee Holkar; and Ragotim Rou, on the part of Azim-ul-Omra.

On the 4th instant Mr. Boyd, being reconciled to Nanna's Party, was on the point of joining his camp, in which were Mounajee Faunkria and Neelkunt Rou Purbhoo, between Wyhe and the Salpa Ghaut; and Nanna was expected there in a very few days.

Since writing the above, a man of mine is come in from Juneer, having left it early in the morning of the 7th instant, at which time Chimna Appa also commenced his journey to Poona, and is expected in this neighbourhood about the same time as Baajy Rou. My man corroborates the above account of the late proceedings in the Juneer quarter, where the current report was that chimna Appa was to continue Peshwa.

I am credibly informed, that since the late revolution fifty lacs of rupees have been paid into the treasury of Doulut Rou Sindea, in part of two crores the price of the revolution. I understand the following to have been the most conspicuous characters in this quarter in effecting the late revolution. Doulut Rou Sindea, and, on his part, Rajee Patell, Narrain Rou Bukshy, and Kishna Huzre, Azim-ul-Omra, through Ragotim Rou; Tukojee Holkar; the Furkia family; and Govin Pingleh.

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\* A village, District Poona.

On the 7th instant Gunput Rae, Colonel Palmer's agent, brought the letters to Sir Charles Malet's address from Doulut Rou Sindea and Rajee Patell, with compliments on their part, and also on the part of Bhoul Bukshy, who observed that he likewise would write to Sir Charles Doulut Rou's letter was of a friendly complimentary nature, and advising his having divested Balloo Tantea of his office of prime minister for misconduct and put him in confinement Rajee Patell's was to the same purport, with the addition that Doulut Row had been pleased to invest him with the chief management of his affairs. It would appear that Abba Chitnavees is not to be re-established as prime minister, but it is said that his brother Kistna is to hold the office of Chitnavees.

A reconciliation has been effected between Rung Rou Raja Behander and Baba Furkia, through the mediation of Doulut Rou Sindea, and the former has returned to his house in town

Having waited in vain twelve days in the hope of receiving some spontaneous communications, on the present and probable future state of affairs here, from some or all of the many chiefs in this quarter, in the course of which I have not neglected endeavouring to draw forth such communications, I really found myself on the near approach of personages of so much consideration and under such peculiar circumstances, as Baajy Rou, Chimna Appa, Nanna Fumavees, and Pursaram Bhoul, very awkwardly and delicately situated, in respect to the conduct that it would be proper for me to observe towards them, since rigid reserve to all would probably offend all; and attention to some still more offend others; while I had not any *positive communication* who was to be Peshwa, nor could I satisfy myself by any means whatever on this very important leading point, the whole tenor of my intelligence teaching me that it is yet undecided and as to the vague communications of Doulut Rou Sindea, Azim-ul-Omra, and Baba Furkia, that Baajy Rou is to be Peshwa They seem at present in the light of a rule for my conduct, more than counterbalanced by Chimna Appa having been actually acknowledged by you as Peshwa Under these circumstances it appeared to me advisable to deliver the following message to Doulut Rou Sindea, which I accordingly did on the 8th instant, through Gunput Rae, Colonel Palmer's agent.

"The occurrences of this quarter for these twelve days past are too conspicuous to require any observation from me. I understand, that not only Chimna Appa and Pursaram Bhoul, but Baajy Rou and Ballajee Pundit (Nana) are expected here in a day or two I have therefore to request, for the information of the Governor General, and to enable me to act with propriety towards the above four personages, that you, as a great chieftain of the Marratta Empire and guarantee of the treaties between the Company and the Marrattas, between whom friendship has long subsisted

to the mutual advantage of both states, will favour me with your sentiments, as to the light in which the above four personages are now to be considered. Should there appear any impropriety in the application, it will I trust be attributed to the extreme delicacy of the affairs of the Marhatta Empire and the peculiarity of my situation, the usual channel of intercourse (Behroo Pundit) between this Residency and the Marhatta Government, being no longer in a state to execute his former functions."

I at the same time sent a message of a similar import, in language adapted to their respective situations, to Azim-ul-Omra, Babā Furkia and Tukojee Holkar. Complimentary messages occasionally pass between Tukojee Holkar and me, and during the late distractions here he sent to me twice for information on the state of affairs, and my sentiments thereon to which I replied in civil terms that I knew no more than the overt acts, which were conspicuous to all

I have just received an answer from Azim-ul-Omra, that he had unreservedly communicated to me all he knew, which should be continued. That Nanna Furnavees was now to be considered as the Prime Minister of the State, and that during his absence his principal agent here was Baba Furkia, with whom or with Trumbuck Rou Purchoorā I might communicate freely or with himself (Azim-ul-Omra). "That Nanna would in a few days arrive in the neighbourhood of Sewgur (Singur); that Baajy Row was coming hither, and that the agreement was, that he was to be Peshwa, for the accomplishment of which, however, he (Azim-ul-Omra) could not at present vouch, as Chimna Appa was also coming; adding that Nanna had expressed much dissatisfaction with his agents at Poona, on learning that they had intended to bring Chimna Appa hither so quickly; that Pursaram Bhou was a prisoner, and that it was not proper for me to consider him in any other light. He added an account of the late proceedings at Juneer, much to the same purport as Baba Furkia's. I understand that Azim-ul-Omra has had at least a hundred men killed and wounded in the affair against Pursaram Bhou.

Through other channels I have learnt that Baba Furkia has lately sent instructions for Chimna Appa to be brought hither by very slow marches. Singur is about 10 miles southward of Poona. possibly, Azim-ul-Omra mistakes it for Poorundur in which quarter, it is very generally and confidently reported, that Nanna will soon arrive.

The Dawk from Bombay having been unexpectedly detained by some of the many Chokies on the road, enables me to add that by a man of mine who came in last night from Baajy Rou's Camp, I learn that Baajy Rou and Emrut Rou were then at Koragaum on the Bhimra about 9 cose to the northward of Poona. Pursaram Bhou and his two sons, Bhasker Pundit, and most of his other principal adherents, were then prisoners in camp,

but there are now rumours here that Pursaram Bhou and his sons have been conveyed to Mandoogun, a place on the Bhimra, belonging to Rasta

**No. 336**—Malet offers his sympathies to Bhaskarpant (see nos. 330 & 331).

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—BHASKER PUNT BEHRO.

*Bombay, 8th November 1796*

I have received your friendly letter by Ballajee Punt advising your arrival at Juneer which surprised me exceedingly and I was very much grieved to hear that your father had been subjected to trouble God in his goodness will render everything easy I have been honoured with Appa Saib's letter and now return an answer to which I beg leave to refer you for particulars. What can I say more?

**No. 337**—Malet sends a report from Bombay to the Court of Directors about the occurrences at Poona and the success of Bajirao and Nana.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS, LONDON.

*Bombay, 10th November 1796*

The Marratta Empire has been violently and incessantly agitated by the discordant parties described in my last. From that time to the present day, during which period the combination of Badjerou's and Nanna Furnavee's adherents composed principally of the Maunkeries or nobles of the Empire headed by Baba Furkia, was for a time broken by the strong measures of the late Sindian Ministry and the ruling Peshwa administration in the seizure and imprisonment of Baba Furkia and many of his followers and the expulsion of others.

But these acts of violence failing of the desired effect, seem to have hastened the revolution which has since taken place \* \* \* (toin) secret understanding with Azim-al-Omra and Nanna Furnavees and on the night between the 26th and 27th ultimo seized the persons of Balloo Tautea, Doandebau and Bhou Bucshy who composed his ministry. In consequence of this decided measure (which strongly proves the justice of Mr Uhthoff's character of this young chieftain transmitted in my last dispatch) and some steps being taken by Azim-ul-Omra (who has assembled a large force at Poona) to apprehend the persons of the ruling



unpalatable to Nanna and might have given offence, which I am desirous to avoid. Such an attention to Nanna as a visit, might have given just offence to Baajy Row to whom, in deference to the delicacy of the times, I have not yet sent even a complimentary message. Baajy Row appears hitherto not to have been treated by the chiefs with the respect due to him, none of them having yet visited him nor any other persons but those sent to him on their part. While Nanna declines paying his respects in person to his own sovereign, he cannot surely with reason be offended at my civilly declining to wait upon himself, who, in an official point of view, holds at present with respect to us no public character, his conduct and intentions towards Baajy Row are yet equivocal and together with his general conduct since the death of the late Peshwa in October 1795, do not seem to entitle him to any superarrogatory marks of attention from us any more than the consideration, that he may hereafter become the Prime Minister of Chimna Appa or some other minor Peishwa, his claim in which case to a visit does not hold good at the present premature period. It is true that Doulut Row Sindea and Azim-ul-Omra have had a meeting with Nanna but they are purchased and will be equally ready to cunge to him today as to betray him tomorrow. The Company stand on much firmer, much more dignified ground. The precedent referred to in the 3rd paragraph of your letter of the 31st ultimo and honoured with your approbation, might be adduced as a further argument in support of the propriety of my conduct on this occasion.

On the 21st I received another message from Gopaul Rou, that though this was the day appointed for the first interview between the chiefs and Baajy Rou, yet that in consequence of the near approach to Poona of a chief of so much eminence in the Empire as Ragojee Bhonsla, it had been deemed advisable to defer the meeting till his arrival; in which interim Nanna was extremely desirous that I should pay him a visit, when an arrangement might be made for inviting Sir Charles Malet to be present at the general meeting abovementioned. I replied, that it was with much satisfaction I observed the progress made towards a general reconciliation between Baajy Row and the chiefs, and the latter among themselves, as promising a solid and permanent settlement of the Maratta Government, that I was extremely anxious to send a complimentary message to Baajy Row, and requested Nanna would let me know if the present was a favourable period for that purpose; that his suggestion of inviting Sir Charles Malet to Poona, appeared to me very proper, and that, doubtless, letters from himself and Baajy Row to that effect would be duly attended to.

I think it not unlikely that I may in a very few days pay a visit to Nanna, which cannot be exceptionable to any of the chiefs, all of whom have referred me to him; but it shall be an object of my particular attention to endeavouring to preclude the dissatisfaction of Baajy Row on that occasion.

On the 21st Chimna Appa, on the state elephant, Umarav with Appa Balwunt in the Khuwassay, passed close to the place of my residence on his way to meet his brother. From an eye witness I learn that half way between the two camps he was met by Emrut Row, and on their alighting Chimna Appa threw himself at his feet, considering him in the light of an elder brother and a guardian, Ragonaut Row having on his death bed entrusted his two infant sons to the care of his adopted son Emrut Row, who was of more mature age, and this connexion has been endeared and rivetted by long confinement together in adversity. Chimna Appa and Emrut Row seated together on the Umarav, proceeded to the camp of Baajy Row, who advanced on an elephant to meet them. On alighting Chimna Appa fell at Baajy Row's feet, and they were both bathed in tears. Chimna Appa is said to have declared his resolution not to be separated from his brother, though this is thought to have been intended as a temporary meeting only. At all events in the afternoon the whole of Chimna Appa's camp moved from their former ground to a situation near Baajy Row, and Chimna Appa remains with his brother.

It is with infinite gratification, Hon'ble Sir, I learn from your letters of the 20th and 31st ultimo, that the general tenour of my conduct of late has been satisfactory to you.

Through a private channel I received on the 20th an application from Baajy Row for the Company's support and in particular for pecuniary aid should it become requisite, which his experience of the delicacy and uncertainty of affairs in this quarter induces him to be thus early in soliciting, and for which, he would grant us the requisite assignments on his revenues. I have returned a civil friendly answer without committing myself on the specific points in question.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of letters to Sir Charles Malet from Mr. Sub-Secretary Thornhill of the 28th ultimo, enclosing copy of your letter of the same date to the Resident with Doulut Row Sindea, and Mr. Secretary Barlow's of the 4th instant, enclosing copy of your letter to the Madras Government of that date.

I learn that on Lukwa Dada receiving intelligence of the confinement of his principal Balloo Tantea, he sought security in flight and is supposed to have gone to the districts of Almass Ally Khan, the charge of the Sindean affairs in the north of India devolving to Jugga Bappoo and Ambajee. It is said that Doulut Row has been endeavouring to reassure Lukwa Dada.

On the 21st I received an answer from Nanna through Gopaul Row to my message of the preceding day, that he approved my suggestion of sending a complimentary message to Baajy Row. That Sir Charles Malet had also written to him (Nanna) in the same terms as my communication in respect to an invitation for his return hither. That he (Nanna) was ready to write to him immediately, and he submitted to me the point

of Baajy Rou's writing, considering that he had not at present any seal, Chimna Appa's as Peshwa being yet in force. In reply I requested that a period might be appointed for my sending a complimentary message to Baajy Row, and observed, that the mode in which Baajy Rou now corresponded with the chiefs of the Maratta Empire, would, I conceived, be perfectly satisfactory to Sir Charles Malet.

On the one hand it is said that Emrut Row is raising troops which gives dissatisfaction to Nana and on the other, that Nana talks of the difficulty of superseding Chimna Appa who has been acknowledged by all as Peishwa. On the whole however the general expectation at present is that Baajy Row will be Peishwa.

**No. 339**—Uthoff offers congratulations to the Governor of Madras on the capture of the Cape Colony and reports the arrival of Bajirao to take possession of the Peshwaship.

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—THE GOVERNOR OF FORT ST. GEORGE

*Poona, 26th November 1796*

I have the honour to present your Lordship my best acknowledgements, for and hearty congratulations on the communication contained in your letter to Sir Charles Malet dated the 11th instant, of the very great and important success of the British arms in the quarter of the Cape of Good Hope, which will, I trust, tend to inspire well founded confidence in the respectable state of the British interests at the Cape and in India, against all the serious evils threatened or apprehended from the French, Dutch, Tippoo and Nizam Ally Khan.

I have communicated your very acceptable intelligence to the chiefs in this quarter, with all of whom I have the gratification to acquaint your Lordship that we are at present on as good terms as could reasonably be expected, and I have just received the congratulations of Nana Furnavees on the occasion.

Ragojee Bhonsla arrived in this quarter the 23rd and on the 25th had a meeting with Nanna Furnavees, Doulut-Rou Sindea, Azim-ul-Omara, a deputation from Tukojee Holkar etc. The first interview between Baajy Rou and the chiefs takes place this day.

**No. 340**—Uthoff describes the visits of Bajirao to the principal Maratha chiefs and of himself to Bajirao.

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 29th November 1796.*

As mentioned in my last address of the 26th instant, a meeting took place on that day between the chiefs in this quarter and Baajy Row,

who was accompanied by Chimna Appa and Emrut Row, on carpet spread in the open field, at a situation nearly equally distant from the camps of the several chiefs. All the persons were standing during the ceremony.

Nanna Furnavees was first introduced, and fell at the feet of Baajy Row, Chimna Appa, and Emrut Row, then Ragojee Bhonsla, then Mallojee Raja, then Azim-ul-Omra, then the usual deputation from Tuckojee Holkar, then Neelkunt Row Purbhoo, and last Doulut Row Sindea. The above personages were attended with by very large retinues, and many of their adherents went through the ceremony of introduction. Each distinct party after being introduced, retired to another part of the plain, where they staid till the whole ceremony was at an end, which occupied some hours. A salute of 50 guns was fired by Nanna's party on his introduction; and the same by Tukojee Holkar and Sindea at their introductions. Monnaje Faunkria, though with Nanna, objected to be introduced on this occasion, and Baajy Row declined meeting Rung Row Raja Behauder. I understand that both Nanna and Daulut Row presented Nuzzurs on the occasion to Baajy Row, Chimna Appa, and Emrut Row. Appa Bulwunt was in the Khuwassay of Baajy Row; Govin Pingleh with Chimna Appa, and Abba Selokur with Emrut Row.

In the morning of the 27th I sent a complimentary message to Ragojee Bhonsla by Sir Charles Malet's Munshy, and soon after, Nago Pandit waited on me with a very civil message from the Raja—a return, which neither he nor Tukojee Holkar had made to Sir Charles Malet, during the latter part of the life of the late Peshwa Mhadoo Row Narrain, when it may be presumed that they were under some check from the Poona Govt. I mention this to the credit of the Raja's personal good disposition towards us.

The same morning I received a visit from Shunkur Row on the part of Nanna, appointing the afternoon for my meeting with him, and acquainting me that the usual ceremony of the Istukbaul would be performed by Luxamon Furkia, one of Baba Furkia's brothers. He added, that Nanna had taken into consideration the propriety of my introduction to Baajy Row the preceding day at the general meeting, but that he had thought a subsequent introduction would be more proper and agreeable to me. Azim-ul-Omra has acquainted me, that he proposed to Nanna my being present at the general meeting of the 26th.

It is proper I should mention to you, Hon'ble Sir, that I did not take any means whatever to endeavour to be present at the general meeting of the 26th, because we had not taken any conspicuous part in the late revolution and because there does not seem to me to be such solid dignified credit resulting to any of the leaders from the mode in which it has been effected, that we should be desirous of participating therein, though the establishment of Baajy Row in his rights (however brought about), seems

miles to Hurrupseer, though not nearer to Poona than before) and after eating with the three Princes retired to Appa Bulwunt's tent. In the afternoon, Abba Selokur arrived from Sattarra with the insignia of Peshwaship from the Raja, with which Baajy Rou was invested about midnight. Chimna Appa, Emrut Rou, Nanna Furnavees, Baba Furkia, and many of the immediate civil officers and servants of the Government were present at the ceremony, but neither Ragojee Bhonsla, Doulut Rou Sinder, Azim-ul-Omra, Holkar, nor the Mankurries. It is expected that these chiefs will pay their respects in person to Baajy Rou in the course of this day. I am informed but cannot yet vouch for it, that Chimna Appa is to hold the office of Dewan to the Peshwa, and Emrut Rou that of Bukshy; and that Nanna is to be Naib to the former and Baba Furkia to the latter.

In the morning of the 4th instant, I received a message from Gopaul Rou Munshy, that the Keellat from Sattarra was expected in the course of the day, but that the period of investiture was not then settled, nor the invitation of the chiefs. In the evening, I received another message from the same quarter that the Keellat was arrived, and that the investiture was to take place about midnight, but that none of the chiefs would be present at the ceremony, the ensuing day being appointed for paying their respects in person to Baajy Rou, of the particulars of which he would advise me when finally settled. To the period of writing this, I have not heard further from either Baajy Rou or Nanna.

Pursaram Pundit Pretiniddy and Mounajee Faunkria were yesterday introduced to Baajy Rou.

Since writing the above, I have received a note from Gopaul Rou, that in the course of the night, Nanna returned to his own camp, whence he has written to Baajy Rou to know whether it would be agreeable to him to receive the compliments of the chiefs to-day or to-morrow. That whenever it should be fixed I should be advised. That Sir Charles Malet might be expected here in the course of to-day, and that after Baajy Rou had appointed the time for the reception of the chiefs, I might determine whether I would visit him or wait Sir Charles's arrival. That whatever chiefs went to the Durbar on the occasion in question, would present Keellats to Baajy Rou, Chimna Appa, and Emrut Rou. I have replied that if it had been thought proper that I should visit Baajy Rou before his investiture, as indeed Nanna had promised, or on the occasion of his investiture, I should have paid my respects to him in person with pleasure, as indeed would have been incumbent on me. but that as ample leisure was now afforded and as Sir Charles Malet might be expected here in a day or two, it appeared to me advisable to wait his arrival. I am much inclined to think that the chiefs will not visit Baajy Rou till tomorrow.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that the Snow Henry, and the Grab Souae Doulut, have been at length permitted to quit Gheria, and that a considerable part of the cargo of the Mhadoo-pursaud has been restored and indemnification promised for the remainder. The particulars of the above shall be communicated by an early opportunity.

The post having been detained a day at Bombay, enables me to add, that on the 5th Doulut Rou Sindea paid his respects in person to Baajy Rou, as well as some people of less consequence, and that it is expected that most of the other Chiefs in this quarter will wait on him tomorrow. Nanna has expressed a wish that I also should then visit Baajy Rou, which I will endeavour to waive, in consequence of intelligence I have received from Sir Charles Malet, that he would leave Bombay on the 4th or 5th instant, and may consequently be expected here in two or three days.

**No. 342**—Malet communicates to the Governor General his return from Bombay, his cordial and complimentary visit to Nana and the situation of the various chiefs and their armies at Poona.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 9th December 1796.*

I have the honor to enclose translations of letters from Badjerow and Nanna Furnavees, in consequence of which, I left Bombay on the night of the 4th (being the day after my receipt of the two first and a few hours after receiving the last) and arrived here at 7 a m, on the 7th instant, having been attended on the road by an agent of Nanna's, and treated with every attention that the quickness of my progress admitted.

You will collect from Nanna's second letter, in which by apologizing for the suddenness of the investiture, he admits his perception of the impracticability of my presence at the ceremony, that all ground for regret is removed from any apprehension of dissatisfaction to the Durbar by my absence while all uneasiness at not being present at so important a ceremony on our own account, is entirely obviated by the privacy with which according to Mr Uhthoff's address to you of the 6th, it was performed, particularly as my arrival puts me on a footing, in point of congratulation, with the chiefs and other principal personages in this neighbourhood, of whom only Sindea had gone through that ceremony previous to my return.

Immediate notice of my arrival was given to the Minister and different chieftains and to the Peshwa as usual through the Minister; I have in consequence received very satisfactory complimentary returns from all those on whom my own agents had waited, but no answer having reached me from Badjerow, I have with the Minister's approbation resolved to depute one of my native confidential servants to him this afternoon with

usual guards and attendants of his predecessors. Doulut Row professes to leave it entirely to Badjerow who, it is said, hesitates to put himself into the Minister's hands by which means, destitute of troops and of money, he necessarily falls into those of Sindea, hence the apprehensions of the Minister which, it is said, have induced him to practise extreme reserve in his late intercourse with Badjerow and in the discharge of certain parts of his ministerial functions that, by increasing the immediate executive authority of Badjerow in raising troops etc., would have multiplied those dangers which the Minister seems to apprehend from the apparent impatience of Badjerow and his brothers particularly Emrut Row to assume the direction of the military power.

It is also said, that as a counterbalance to the power of Nana, Badjerow in the event of Doulut Row's moving to the north, requires a detachment of his (Doulut Row's) troops to be left with him, to which Doulut Row from an apprehension of the prejudicial extension of too unbounded an authority in Nana to his disadvantage in his absence, is said to hearken with complacency, though the other chiefs, the *mankurnies* etc., are jealous of the appearance of such a partiality of Badjerow to the Sindean chief.

All, however, will take occasional advantage of this predicament between Badjerow and Nana to continue to draw those treasures from the latter, by which his cause has hitherto been supported, and the acquisition of which is, perhaps, too much the object of Badjerow and his brothers, though pursued with a precipitation that may possibly prejudice its effectual accomplishment, whereas by the adoption of a more conciliatory and confidential line of conduct with the Minister, both his person and property would necessarily soon fall under his (Badjerow's) disposal and authority, in the exercise of which he is said to be captious and undiscerning.

At all events, should any party now resort to violent measures it is to be apprehended, that the strong force and vigilant state of preparation in which all are, would render it extremely serious.

After writing thus far, I am honoured with your commands of the 21st ultimo, which containing a repetition of your wish of my return after your being informed of the revolution, relieves me from the solicitude I had experienced in having taken that delicate step, and you may depend on a prosecution of that studious avoidance of commitment in the event of further discordance of the chieftains of this Empire, by which my and my assistant's conduct has been hitherto successfully regulated, with the requisite prescribed reference for your instructions, and advertence to the sentiments and conduct of the Sindean party and Azim-ul-Omra.

Want of time prevents my troubling you with anything, that a further consideration of your commands now before me may at a future period render necessary.

I have the honor to enclose copy of a Phirmaund, that has been lately procured from Dehly and received here by the Sindean Durbar, for Ram Raja of Travancore, of whose servant Soobrow's proceedings here you and the Madras Government have been occasionally informed

**No. 343**—This is a copy of Nana Fadnis's letter to Nizam Ali Khan translated into English, in which Nana recounts the circumstances of the revolution at Poona, and expresses his esteem for Azim-ul-Omra whom he had hated so severely all along, but whom he now befriended so ardently

*Translate of an Arzee from Balajee Jenardun Pundit to the Nawaub Asof Jah Behader, communicated to Major Kirkpatrick through Meer Allum on the 23rd of December 1796.*

That the consideration of your Highness's uniform attention and favour towards this well-wisher was a source of great comfort and confidence to him After the retinue (Sowaree) of Shrimant Baajy Rao Sahab arrived near Poona (meaning that Baajy Rao himself arrived at Poonah), observing the crooked ways of certain shortsighted persons, apprehension took possession of the mind of this well-wisher, upon which he proceeded to Sattarah At that time some shortsighted men, slandering my friend Dowlut Rao Saindeah, were guilty of various disrespectful acts towards Shrimant, which ought not to have been committed, resolving at the same time among themselves to ensnare (or act treacherously by) this well-wisher For this reason, I judged it expedient to quit Poonah for Wahee, from whence I afterwards proceeded to Mhar and the fort of Rayghur.

In the meantime certain shortsighted people proposed conveying Shrimant to the fort of Asher The attention of Shrimant was directed towards this servant and this servant on his part uniformly looked to the footsteps of Shrimant, but owing to the workers of strife, affairs began to wear a bad appearance in the State All these events will no doubt have become known to your Highness through the medium of the newspapers

In those days Azem-ul-Omra Behader coming forth encamped near Wanoree. This Behader viewing well this Junto, and considering the matter with foresight, and knowing that your Highness' favour was upon this well-wisher, did carry himself in my behalf in such a manner as I am at a loss to express. The Bhoonslah likewise and others deliberated duly and properly on the affairs of the State. My friend Dowlut Rao Sindeah also (whose being is kneaded by the feet of Shrimant Sahab) inclining to friendship with this well-wisher, and consulting with aforesaid Behader (Azem-ul-Omrah), seized a favourable opportunity and settled the business of his ministers, (i.e., threw them into confinement).



Upon hearing of this proceeding Parsoram Pundit seizing Shrimant Appah Saheb carried him away to Seonerec. The Hoozrat troops of the Sirkar, the troops of Azem-ul-Omrah and the Battalions of Dowlut Rao Scindeah were sent in pursuit of them, and letters of assurance were at the same time dispatched to this well-wisher. After this, upon my arrival at Wahee, the much esteemed Ragotim Rao was deputed to me in a confidential character on the part of Dowlut Rao Scindeah. Then Scindeah invited Shrimant Rao Saheb to Poona, while Shrimant Appah Saheb returned in safety to the city and the excitors of trouble were quelled. Your well-wisher afterwards on his approach to Poona, being first visited by the different chiefs, his introduction to Shrimant followed. I then addressed an Arzee to the exalted and gracious Lord Shrimant Maharaj the bestower of the Umbrella of Royalty (Chuttur-puttee), in compliance with which the Keellat of Paishwah was graciously bestowed on Shrimant Baajy Rao Saheb, who was accordingly invested therewith in an auspicious hour. Thus, points of great moment with respect to both states, and which continued of very difficult accomplishment notwithstanding all the pains and expense that had been incurred, were nevertheless completely attained through the unanimity of Azem-ul-Omra and Dowlut Rao Scindeah. and that they should have been thus easily accomplished is solely to be attributed to the friendly influence of your Highness. May the Almighty long preserve your Highness, and now the aforesaid Behader (Azem-ul-Omra) and this well-wisher are animated by one soul, and by your favour are (in all respects) equal. Be therefore your fostering care continued to us both.

The aforesaid Behader will no doubt have constantly and fully explained to you in writing the favourable and unfavourable as well as all the delicate circumstances (of this quarter)

Moreover that the Keellut of Peishwahship might be bestowed on Shrimant Baajy Rao Saheb, and that I might with my own eyes see this come to pass, was the first wish of my heart, and that wish by the blessing of God and the favour of your Highness has at length been accomplished. Henceforward (however) my bodily infirmities will not permit me to aspire to employment. Written the 10th of Jemaud ul Akhur A.H. 1211. For the rest (I refer to) the utmost bounds of humble respect

**No. 344**—Malet assures the G. G. that British interests are not likely to suffer in any way from the revolutions at the Court of Poona

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM

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Poona, 16 January 1797

My last respects were dated the 13th instant since which nothing material has occurred in my intercourse with this State or the chiefs assembled here, nor have I yet heard further from Badjerou on the

subject of my interpository advance, which is accountable for the stoppage of business during the 12 days of mourning on the death of his wife, on which occasion I paid him a visit of condolence yesterday, when, however, according to the etiquette of such a ceremonial nothing particular passed.

I have this morning been honoured with your commands of the 29th ultimo and was happy to learn from them that my return to this place was satisfactory to you

I shall be particularly useful (careful?) in regulating my requisition to the Resident at Benares for the transmission of the jewels so as to give their presentment to the new Peshwa every advantage of personal and public impression

My late despatches will have evinced the justice of your apprehensions that the re-establishment of perfect tranquillity may for some time be delayed by the discordances arising out of the late convulsions, and you will have learnt that my first advance to forward your wish of resettlement of the Empire, has not afforded ground for a sanguine hope of success. Your commands of this day, however, will induce me to be less scrupulous in the signification of my wishes and sentiments to those on whom I may perceive any prospect of their making an impression, though, I have to lament, the serious cause of dissension between A O and D R S on such material points of clashing territorial claims, will render it extremely difficult to preserve that harmony and concert with both so highly desirable and so particularly recommended by you

While I readily acknowledge, Hon'ble Sir, that the present period is particularly favourable for promoting the interests of the Hon'ble Co and our station at this Court, permit me to observe that so long as our conduct is regulated by that strict avoidance of connection with any of the parties contending for the management of affairs, by which alone some kind of commitment or the exciting of some jealousy can be prevented, no other advantage can be expected than a confirmation of that respect with which, I believe, the rectitude and disinterestedness of our conduct has hitherto impressed all parties.

You will observe, Hon'ble Sir, that the papers of occurrences here are full of symptoms of the jealousy of the different parties, particularly between D. R S and R. Bhosla, which has induced the former to procure an injunction from the Peshwa to Ragojee to countermand the approach of the numerous forces that were reported to be on their way and to be now halted at Naug Talao, 55 cos hence.

Notwithstanding the strong signs of jealousy and even enmity lately betrayed by A O in his intercourse with me toward D R S, I understand that he now pretends to have effected a reconciliation

between that chieftain and the Bhosla, and that D. R. S. has agreed to regulate himself by his (A.O.'s) advice, which does not correspond with the accounts received from other quarters of their serious disagreement.

I understand that Nanna is lightening himself as much as possible and he has lately made application to me for the passage of stores and provisions to Raighur, which justify an inference that he still looks to that fortress as an asylum.

**No. 345**—Malet reports to the G. G. his having communicated the latter's congratulations to Bajirao and the arrangement made for the dispatch of the jewels to Poona.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 20 January 1797.*

Since that time I have in conformity to the spirit and letters of your commands of 29th ultimo made communications to the ministers N. F. and A. O. as explained in the accompanying reports of my agents employed therein, which having been made to me this morning, have not hitherto afforded time for my answer, in which you may rely on my strict abidance by your orders with all possible attention to the conciliatory signification of them.

The solicitude of A. O. to convince us of the inviolability of the engagements to him and of the total absence of all difficulty or danger of co-operation, will probably have a different effect on your mind than is intended by him.

One of my confidential native servants waited on Badjerou yesterday charged with a similar commission to him as to N., on the subject of your joy on his succession and your instructions regarding the jewels, with an amicable remonstrance on the policy of an answer to my late friendly reconciliatory advance, but was civilly desired by Badjerou to call to-day as he was then engaged in particular business with Sindia. He will accordingly wait on him this afternoon.

On the reasoning adduced in the enclosed copy of my letter of this date to the Resident of Hyderabad for my commission to A. O., I have also intimated to D. R. S. my desire of making known to him the friendly sentiments toward this Government with which I have been lately honoured by you, and this afternoon or to-morrow is appointed for the reception of my messenger, when in addition to a similar communication to that made to A. O. on the point of your letter of 29th ultimo, I shall charge him with that on the subject of reconciliation formerly intended but hitherto delayed by various causes.

I trust no difficulty will occur in satisfying Badjerou that the generosity that suggested the voluntary presentment of the jewels will have no objection to cancelling the bond for which they were pledged

I was this morning honoured with the receipt of Mr Secretary Barlow's letter of the 30 ultimo advising the orders to Lieutenant Michie to proceed to Poona with the jewels

**No. 346**—This refers to the return of Raghunath Rao's jewels that were pledged with the British during the first Maratha War.

*Report of Meer Fakh-ud-Deen to C W. M. of his conference with N. F. on the 19th January 1797.*

Agreeable to your commands I made known to N F the Governor General's happiness on the accession of Badjiou and his (N's) return to Poona agreeable to the sincere wishes of all friends to this State and of him in particular, that likewise the Governor General in the persuasion of its being pleasing to the Peshwa and him (N.) had expressed his entire approbation of your resumption of your station, and in proof of the extent of his satisfaction on so joyful an occasion, he had authorized me to call on the Resident at Benares for the jewels intended as a present to the Peshwa on which point you wished the guidance of his advice

That you regretted not being yet favoured with an answer to your reconciliatory advance to Badjiou and was thereby left in doubt whether he had agreeable to his promise sent to him on the subject.

To which he replied that truly the Governor General's satisfaction was becoming his friendship, but that though you had returned, your intended departure took from the pleasure of that Government ; that with respect to the jewels on former occasions the Governors of Bombay had written they were deposited as a pledge for certain sums lent thereon and that their release depended on the payment of those sums , after which the intended presentment of them was signified through you . . . which an escort was sent to bring them. But now Emrut Rou says that a written engagement was granted by Raghunath Rou to the Company for the money on which the jewels were pledged, that therefore it is requested to know what is intended regarding that paper

That the occurrence of the mourning ceremonies for Badjiou's wife had prevented his (N's) sending the message he had promised to Badjiou regarding an answer to your reconciliatory advance that reason being expired, he would now do it, but that you should also remind him (Badjiou) of it direct, for though all matters might as usual be referred to him, yet you should (have) an answer direct from him (B) and prosecute a direct intercourse with him.

**No. 347**—Malet records the report of his confidential agent's visit with Bajirao

*Report of Meer Fakruddin<sup>1</sup> to C W M. of his audience of the Peshwa  
Badinou on the 20th Jany. 1797.*

After communicating at large what you entrusted me with to the Peshwa who was alone, on the part of the Governor Genl's relative to his joy on his (B's) succession, his approbation of your resuming your station as a measure agreeable to him (B's) and his instructions regarding the jewels

He (B) replied that as no body was present it was proper to caution me against anything transpiring that he might say to me That the friendship between the Co and his father needed no explanation, for that his father had resided two years in the Company's house and that he was particularly acquainted with your personal services to his father in Cambay, that with respect to the jewels etc. he would defer his answer until I came accompanied with a person from Nanna. On my urging him to favor me with an answer to what I had some time since mentioned to him, he replied, 'Do you first of all introduce one of my confidential people to C.W M; and on his assuring me through that person what I may without reserve communicate with him to say, I will let you know what I have to say.' On my expressing my readiness to introduce whomsoever he pleased, he pointed to a person named Abba Kalleh who was at a distance and told me to take him with me; and calling Abba Kalleh, he enjoined him not to mention it to anybody, not even to Emrut Rou. He then directed me to introduce him at night but Abba Kalleh observed that as he frequented the Doctor's house for medicine he would go in the day He then ordered him to go tomorrow After this he gave me my dismissal

**No. 348**—Malet records an account of his agent's visit to Daulatrao Sindia. It is an important statement summarizing the main points of difference between Bajirao and Nana Fadnis.

*Report to C. W M of Meer Nizam-al-Deen's audience of D. R. S.  
on the 22nd January 1797*

I first of all communicated according to your instructions your receipt of the Govr. Genl's commands to make known to him (D. R. S) the Govr. Genl.'s happiness on the late revolution in which he had acted so conspicuous a part and the consequence of which held forth so pleasing a prospect of the re-establishment of the Empire and the tranquillity so anxiously wished for by him, the Govr. Genl. as a real friend of the Marratta State After which I proceeded

<sup>1</sup>Note—M F. Deen is the eldest son of Nuruddin Hussain Khan, Malet's native agent, who died in 1796 and after whom his son became the Resident's Munshi. See introduction p. 12.

to make the friendly representations on the present perturbed and unintelligible state of affairs and, with an amicable intimation of your concern at not having been yet favored with any confidential communication on the subject, to request it in future agreeable to the sincere friendship of the Govr Genl and his anxious interest in the welfare of the State, as evinced by the foregoing communication of his later instructions.

When I made this communication, the tent was cleared of all the company except Rajee Patil, Bhou Bucshy and Annoba Jaddoo, and when I had done speaking, Rajee Patil commenced a reply by observing, that Maraja, meaning Doulut Rou Sindea had wished to communicate certain matters to you (C. W. M.) and that my arrival had anticipated the intention of sending to you on the subject

He then proceeded to say that the friendship of the two states was too well known to need explanation; that what had passed here you were well acquainted with except perhaps the machinations of carrying Badjirou from hence, the actors\* in which you are well acquainted have been duly punished, after which Maraja's (Sindea's) fidelity to the Peshwa and friendship for Nanna Furnaveese induced him to bring back Badjirou and to send for Nanna Furnaveese and effect a meeting between them, which was the cause of great happiness. Nanna Furnaveese now requires that the Peshwa should transact no business great or small without his consent; and that Maraja's (Sindea's) battalions should be removed from guarding him, confining all authority to himself. On the other hand the Peshwa declares that he will attend to whatever Nanna says, but that, should he wish to make an excursion or go out either for pleasure or devotion, it shall not be at Nanna's permission, in like manner he requires to be uncontrolled in such little donations of cloths, mams and such like as he may choose to make, he also declares that if they attempt to remove the battalions that guard him, he will snap his Jenowee string and besmearing his body with ashes become a wanderer on the face of the earth.

Maraja (Sindea) represents these things to Nanna and that Badjirou is of a sudden temper and unexperienced, that therefore he (Nanna) should confidently commence his administration, for that the battalions are under his command and can do nothing without his orders and that he (Sindea) looks on him (Nanna) as his deceased father and benefactor Mhadjee Scindea; and that he (Sindea) was ready to become security that, should there be any evil intention toward him, he would place him in safety at Benares or wherever else he pleased and that no body could entertain an evil design against him; but all this is ineffectual to give him confidence; while on the other hand, when we desire Badjirou to permit the removal of our battalions in lieu of whom Maraja (Sindea) will leave

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\* Ballo Tantea, etc.

2 or 4,000 horse with him (Bajirao) under his uncle's command, he openly dis ents and declares he will not trust himself in the hands of Marrattas, for that they had already carried off his younger brother a prisoner to Poona and himself to Jamgaum and that he would trust himself only to the guard of the battalions, for that in their nightly vigilance and challenging he slept securely Maraja (Sindea) endeavours to reassure Nanna Furnaveese and to dismiss the vast bodies of troops that are assembled to the destruction of the country, particularly by the depredations of the Bhosla's troops, who destroy the country without remorse, while the odium is thrown on Maraja (Sindea), while our whole blame originates in our battalions being stationed as above described with Badjerou and were the head (Badjerou) wise and intelligent, this might be urged to him ; but the fact is he is not so and is so totally unexperienced , as one instance of which he yesterday went without any previous intimation to Koury and sent for Maraja (Sindea) to attend him These things alarm Nanna with apprehensions of strange machinations tho' in fact nothing passed , and Maraja (Sindea), dissatisfied by these things, yesterday required permission to depart to the north, where there were reports of the intended irruption of the Abdallies and the business of the state required his presence, upon which he (Badjerou) began to rend his Braminical string and to signify his resolution of withdrawing from the world, and reproached Doulut Rou Scindia with infidelity to his master for thinking of going without his permission Thus encouraged what can we do ? On the one hand Nanna requires the establishment of his authority as undivided as the authority of the English Govert., but how can this be effected ? I understand the late Peshwa was cherished and educated by him, but Badjrrou has reached the age of maturity, so that nothing can be effected but by degrees and Badjerou is fixed in his determination, so that though he may be unreasonable, yet as we are servants we cannot use compulsion over him Had he been wise, things would not have come to this pass , but he does not attach himself to one set of counsellors He constantly traverses the precincts of his tents with his loins tight-girded like a private sentinel ; this he esteems excellence, but is unexperienced in affairs of state Thus we are at our wits' end and what might have been done in one day has been delayed three months without anything being yet settled. The Nizam is not averse to a settlement.

Having said this much, which was by the direction of Doulut Rou Scindia and sometimes with the introduction of some words by him, Rajee Patill excused the terms in which they had mentioned their master Badjrrou, observing that it was in entire confidence and to give you (C. W. M.) a clear and unreserved state of the case, that your opinion thereon might be correct, for that looking on you as a friend, they requested to have the benefit of my statements.

At the close of our conversation Bhou Bucshy enquired if I had heard anything of Asof-al-Doula's having shown any symptoms of perturbation on the rumours of Zuman Sha's entering Hindostan and of his having in consequence thereof made any deprecatory advance to that prince, which the others that were present treated as mere report, and I declared myself entirely ignorant of, tho' it did not seem likely that such perturbation would be felt, much less betrayed by a prince so connected and at such a distance from the rumoured danger.

**No. 349**—Malet forwards to the Bombay Governor Nana's request for a few articles being sent to Mahad through the British territory of Fort Victoria.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—J. DUNCAN, GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

*Poona, 24th January 1797.*

I have the honor to enclose a list of sundry articles which has been presented to me by Nanna Furnaveese with a request that they may be permitted to pass through your districts of Fort Victoria to the Marratta fort of Mhar which, you are acquainted is immediately dependant on Nanna

To which I have given the following reply that, I have consulted the treaties on the subject and do not find the passage of the articles in question provided for, that on the contrary the exemption from duties in passing through the river of Fort Victoria is confined to the export of certain articles stipulated in the treaty of 12th October 1756 for which the Company are to enjoy a compensatory annual importation of 1,50,000 Rs worth of goods to Poona free of Customs; that tho' we might be highly desirous of gratifying the Marratta State on any admissible point of application, yet attention to rules prescribed by treaty was particularly necessary and more especially at this juncture when by the admission of such an application undefined as a particular act of favor, it might in future be assumed as a precedent to the great annoyance of our Govert. and my consequent discredit in relaxing from the vigilance requisite for watching over the treaties of the two states; that moreover the circumstances of the times might in addition to the above ground of reproach on the part of my own Govert subject me to the dissatisfaction of this also, since in the event of differences again ensuing, the permission to strengthen the fort of Raighur might be converted into a cause of complaint against me by Badjirou

That on a consideration of these circumstances I feel myself, however reluctantly, reduced to the necessity of requesting him (Nanna) to ascertain me that no future dissatisfaction would attach to the measure on the part of Bajirou and that it was to be received not as a right but as an act of friendship and indulgence, and that in the spirit of cordiality



in which we should be happy to grant it, I expected an improvement of the inattention with which I was sorry to observe our applications not for favors but for redress of grievances were generally treated by this Court, of which the delay of justice in the case of the vessell *Sonae-Doulut* was a strong instance now existing in point.

*Translate of a list of articles received from Nana Funnaveese with a request of permisston for their passage free of Customs from Bassein to Mhar through the river of Fort Victoria.*

	Candies.
Bhatt	500
Gun powder	50
10 Guns	
300 Pieces of timber	
10 Boats laden with sundry articles under the denomination of Kirana	
5,000 Cannon shot from Vizzydroog.	

**No. 350**—Malet mentions to Governor Duncan the nuptials of Bajirao with the grand daughter of Haripant Phadke, and the entry of the Peshwa into his palace.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—JONATHAN DUNCAN, GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, BOMBAY.

*Poona, 16th February 1797.*

I have the honor to thank you for the documents relative to what has passed at your Board and its correspondence with Mr Rivett on the subject of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors' appointment of that gentleman and myself to provisional seats at your Council Board on which there being no present occasion to trouble you with my sentiments, permit me to reserve a latitude of submitting them to you, should circumstances so require at a future period.

I have great pleasure in acquainting you that at a meeting of Emrut Rou (the Peshwa's adoptive brother), Doulut Rou Sindea and Nanna Funnaveese yesterday, a considerable apparent advance to accommodation was made by its having been resolved that the Peshwa should this day enter his palace in the city to celebrate his nuptials with a grand daughter of the late Hurry Punt Furkia, after which he is to re-enter his tents to prosecute the great object of amicably dismissing all the great chieftains assembled here to their respective homes.

At the close of this satisfactory consultation I had the pleasure of waiting on the Peshwa and presenting the Governor General's Keellat of congratulation on his accession to the musnud, the delivery of which in particular fortunately gave it additional eclat from its introduction on so happy an occasion.

Agreeable to the resolution of yesterday the Peshwa entered his palace early this morning.

I am,

(Translation)

**No. 351**—Malet communicates his intended retirement to Bajirao and cordial wishes for his future good luck and welfare.

FROM—C. W MALET,

TO—THE PESHWA.

*Poona, 15th February 1797.*

It has been frequently represented to you by my Munshy personally and through Nanna Furnaveese that my late return to this place was merely to enjoy the happiness of seeing you placed on the Musnud of your forefathers, and to make and receive those mutual declarations of friendship by which the two States have been so long and so happily united, after which it was my intention to prosecute with a contented heart the resolution I had long formed of returning to my native country, rendered necessary by sundry reasons and by an absence of 27 years, which resolution was lastly and most pointedly enforced\* to you at my Munshy's audience on the 13 Instant, when in the sincerity and abundance of your gracious kindness toward me, you expressed a desire of my remaining two years more at your Court to experience the proofs of that friendship which you are pleased to profess toward my country and myself

Be it known to you, illustrious sir, that gratified as I have been by seeing you established in your princely rights and recognising your friendly assurances to the Government, I have the honour to represent, every wish of my heart public and individual is accomplished, and I have now only to look to your permission to retire to the pleasing recollection and diffusion of knowledge of your goodness in my own country, as the most desirable act of that gracious disposition you have been pleased to express toward me.

And in this request I am reluctantly forced to be thus importunate by the intelligence that has just reached me that the ships will sail for Europe in 13 days, four of which being requisite to the journey hence to Bombay. I need not urge the inconvenience to which by utmost expedition I shall be now reduced in arriving at Bombay and providing in so short a time for so long a voyage, the necessity of impressing which on your mind has forced me to trouble you with this detail, which I shall conclude with repeating the assurances so frequently made that Mr. Uthhoff with whose good qualities you are so well acquainted, will remain here to discharge

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\*Mentioned.

as usual the duties of friendship, in my absence until the pleasure of the Governor General shall be known regarding the future disposal of this Residency.

**No. 352**—Malet sends a full report to the Governor General of his leave-taking visit to Bajirao.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

*Poona, 17th February 1797.*

Since my last address of the 13th Instant I have made known at the different Durbars here the substance of the late intelligence from Europe to the 3rd November.

On the 13th my Munshy Meer Fukku-al-Deen waited on the Peshwa to make known your intention of proceeding to Lucknow, to remind him of my frequent applications for permission to proceed to Bombay on my intended embarkation for Europe and to urge the immediate supply of a Dustuck as the period of the departure of the ships was so near at hand as to reduce me with all possible exertion to the greatest inconvenience.

To this application the Peshwa answered with a repeated desire that I would defer my intended departure for two years to which my Munshy replied that devoted as I was to the service of this state whose welfare I deemed synonymous with that of my own, no mediatory good office, no friendly exhortation, no advice such as my slender ability enabled me to give, had been withheld, while ignorant of the effect I saw no prospect of the smallest good in a further sacrifice of time now become so precious to me to such a pursuit which Mr. Uthhoff, knowing as he did every step that had been taken and equally well inclined as myself to promote that desirable object, would prosecute, should opportunity offer with equal ardor and effect as I possibly could.

Without taking any particular notice of this, the Peshwa reverted to his wish of my staying, and on my Munshy's perseverance in requesting my passport referred him to Emrut Rou for an answer, to whose tent my Munshy went and after going over the same grounds it was referred to my having a personal interview with Emrut Rou to which when reported I assented with a request that it might be as soon as possible. Accordingly the 15th was appointed, and to accelerate my departure I requested as mentioned in my last that the presentment of the Keellat might take place at the same time.

On the 15th I sent to know at what time I should wait on Emrut Rou and in answer had the happiness to learn that my visit would be particularly acceptable but that it must be deferred till a late hour as a previous meeting

was to take place between Emrut Rou, Doulut Rou Sindea and Nanna, at which with some important preliminary steps to general accommodation, it was expected the next day would be fixed for the celebration of the Peshwa's nuptials with the grand daughter of Huiry Punt Furkia.

It was also intimated that these circumstances would render the presentment of the Keellat of congratulation particularly apropos

In the course of the afternoon the meeting of the above chiefs (at which the Vakeels of the others assembled here attended) took place at an intermediate place, after which they all proceeded to Badjirow's tent where having communicated the result of their consultation, they departed to their several Camps and about 8 o'clock I received a message that the Peshwa and Emrut Rou would be glad to see me.

I accordingly proceeded and reached their camp about 9. On entering the tent Emrut Rou having been occupied all day had retired to eat, but soon came to receive me which he did in the most cordial manner and entered into an interesting recapitulation of past scenes, enumerating by name and enquiring particularly after our countrymen with whom in the course of our connexion with Ragobah he had been personally acquainted

After endeavouring to gratify his curiosity I embraced this opportunity of urging my application for permission to depart, observing that the only possible objection was now removed by the accommodation of differences and their happy conclusion in the celebration of the Peshwa's nuptials. This brought on an amicable altercation the recapitulation of which, filled as it was with the most friendly expressions, might savor of egotism. Suffice it then, Hon'ble Sir, to say that the whole tenor of this young Prince's conversation evinced a regard for our nation which he frankly and warmly acknowledged was founded on the basis of gratitude for the most important services received from the Company's Government not only by their father Dada Saib (Raghunath Rou) but by Badjirow, hinting in very intelligible forms that he was not ignorant of the sense that had all along been entertained and expressed by us of their hereditary rights, the weight of which in the late confusions and present accommodation they well knew how to appreciate, as by their conduct to the Company I should hear, tho' I might not be on the spot to witness and that tho' I went to Europe they should look on me always as their friend and benefactor and continue to write to me as they expected I would to them.

He acquainted me that at the consultation in the evening a reconciliation had been effected with Nana which promised a general accommodation, that in consequence thereof the nuptials would take place the ensuing day at the Peshwa's Palace in the city, after which Badjirow would re-enter his tents and dismiss the chieftains to their respective homes. That thus circumstanced he at all events requested that I would stay to be present at the marriage, to which I assented referring him however, to a paper

of which I have the honor to enclose translate, for a clear knowledge of the straits to which I was reduced in point of time.

Having spent much time in this conversation he sent to desire the presence of his brothers, the Peshwa and Chinnajee Appa, who appeared, and I desired what had passed might be made known to the former, who at first resumed the topic that his brother had so strenuously insisted on of deferring my departure but was prevailed on to acquiesce in what Emrut Rou had settled, viz. permission to depart after the nuptials at which I had agreed to be present

I took advantage of the happy result of that evening's consultation and the auspiciousness of the impending nuptials to introduce in the most impressive manner in my power on your behalf the Keelat of congratulation on his (Badjirou's) accession to the Musnud, the delay of which I am happy to think, Honourable Sir, has fortunately given it additional eclat by so apropos an introduction.

I likewise observed how desirous you had been of forwarding the family jewels from Benares, that what had been received by me from their father Ragobah as a pledge of friendship might have been returned to the son, through the same hands as a token of the Hon'ble Company's and your regard, but that my regret at being deprived of being a second time the instrument of so pleasing an office was lessened by the consideration that it would be executed with equal alacrity and fidelity by Mr. Uthoff, whose long experience of and respect for this Court rendered him equally suited as myself for the discharge of every friendly office between the two states

My visit having been protracted to 11 o'clock I took my leave.

Before sunrise the next morning Badjirou entered the city and the nuptials were solemnized in the evening to which I received invitations by respectable deputations from the Peshwa and Baba Furkia in the course of the day, and agreeable thereto I purpose waiting on them this day and have desired that the Peshwa will take the same opportunity of granting me my audience of leave, in which case it is my intention to set off for Bombay with the least possible delay, but doubtful as I am of the measure of these people till actually carried into execution, I shall defer the official declaration of my resignation until the possession of the Dustuck reduces its practicability to a certainty.

Some queries of Emrut Rou regarding the state of Europe furnished me an opportunity of giving him the particulars of the important intelligence lately received to the 28th October from England and to the 3rd November from Vienna which I have likewise made known to Azim-al-Omra, Doulut Rou Sindia, etc.

Yesterday I received from Mr. Persian Translator Edmonstone letters from you for R. Bhosla, Doulut Rou Sindia and T. Holkar which were delivered immediately.

I have heard with real satisfaction that Zuman Sha has evinced strong marks of relinquishing his intention (if ever it was entertained) of advancing at present to Dehli and that instead of prosecuting his march with the promptitude that the approach of the hot season required, he had moved in a western direction and given orders for repairing the fortifications of Lahore, while detachments were employed against the principal Sic towns in the neighbourhood, in the course of which Omrootsar and Adeena Nuggur had been subjected to the usual terrible consequences of their ferocious attacks.

It has reached me from good authority that Ahmednuggur is to be ceded to D. R. S. in lieu of Doulutabad which may facilitate the cession of Doulutabad to the Nz, tho' I am inclined to think that A. O. may experience less readiness in N. F. to complete the cessions to that prince after having effected his own reconciliation with the Peshwa and D. R. S. than he professed, while he had occasion for the weight and credit of A. O's adherence to promote that reconciliation.

Curra Mundla is I understand to be certainly included in the cessions, to the Bhosla.

P.S.—I am just returned from congratulating the Peshwa on his nuptials, and I am promised an audience of leave on the 19th.

**No. 353**—Malet describes his leave-taking visits to Bajirao and his two brothers, and to Azim-al-Omra at Poona. Some other occurrences are also reported to the G. G.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 20th February 1797.*

In my last address of the 17th instant I had the honour to acquaint you of my having that evening paid a congratulatory visit to Badjirou on the happy event of his nuptials, on which and his entrance of his capital I assured him of the sincere joy that I experienced and which, as these auspicious events were an earnest of the early accommodation of the differences that had so long and so unfortunately disturbed the tranquillity of the state, would be matter of the greatest joy to you, the Company, our sovereign and our whole nation to whom I should have peculiar happiness as being the bearer of such glad tidings.

To these professions having received suitable answer, I proceeded to request that having witnessed such happy events, the Peshwa would complete my satisfaction by granting me his permission to depart and as ten days only remained before the sailing of the ships

I entreated that my representative functions might terminate with this auspicious visit

After much friendly controversy it was settled that an audience of leave should be granted to me on the 19 on which after making the nuptial presents as also a present to Emrut Rou's son about 6 years old\* who was introduced to me for the first time, I took my leave

On the 18th instant I announced to all the chiefs in this neighbourhood my intended departure with such assurances of personal and official friendship and such offers of service in Europe as seemed proper and suitable to the occasion accompanying them with a present of a gold Kulloon or Kodha† to A O, a portrait of the late M. Sindia to D. R. S. and a painting of a group of Hindoo deities to R. Bhosla the two latter by the late artist Mr. Wales‡—all which were received with suitable professions and assurances of friendship by all parties

Early on the morning of the 19th instant I received a message from A O. intimating his intention of visiting me to which I immediately assented.

Being advised of his approach I proceeded about 11 o'clock to meet him at a small distance from my habitation and having exchanged compliments through my Munshy at a distance preceded him to my Bungalow.

On his entrance he with his usual courtesy expressed his concern that our acquaintance was to be so short. In answer to which with similar expressions of regret I explained to him that my intention was of long standing, but had been interrupted by a desire of seeing an happy termination of the late confusions in this State, the present prospect of which under his auspices now relieved me from further difficulties in executing them He admitted that there was now reason to hope a speedy settlement and took in good part my earnest exhortations to a like advantage of every possible circumstance to extricate himself from further embarrassment and to return to the administration of his Master's affairs, which on every consideration pressingly required his abilities and presence

I explained to him the late intelligence from Europe with which he seemed well satisfied and amongst other enquiries on the occasion asked the cause of our ambassador proceeding to the French territory in preference to theirs proceeding to England, in answer to which I explained the previous invitation by a flag of truce and the inconvenience that the insularity of our country presented to a negotiatory congress, where such numerous agents were to meet and such a variety of interests to be discussed with which he seemed well satisfied.

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\* Named Vinayakzao, born in about 1791, who was for a short time made Peshwa by Yeshwantrao Holkar in 1803 and who afterwards retired to Benares with his father, after whose death, he removed to Karvi in Bundelkhand where his palaces existed for a long time

† The small bowl for the hukka

‡ Who died on 13th November 1795. See his life sketch under no. 373.

He enquired when he might expect Majr Kirkpatrick and expressed an high sense of that gentleman's taking the trouble of so long a journey purely to see him in consequence of the advice received this day from his... of the... ..setting out I have made the same known to him.

He acquainted me of its having been written by Meer Abdul Lateef the Nz.'s news-writer at Calcutta that in consequence of Zuman Sha's approach, Col. P had been directed to proceed to his camp and that the Bengal armies had been ordered to assemble in the neighbourhood of Kennoje The receipt on the 19th instant of a letter from Col. P dated the 29th ultimo enabled me to assure him that the Colonel's proceeding was in suspense to that time, which was subsequent to the date of his advices I confirmed his intelligence of orders having been issued for assembling the army, observing that I was not precisely acquainted with the station which would probably be ultimately resolved on at your approaching meeting with the Vazeer.

He expressed an anxious wish to be early informed of your resolution respecting the part to be taken by the Co in the event of the Sha's invasion of Hindostan actually taking place (of which for the present he seemed very doubtful), as such information would be particularly requisite for the guidance of his master's conduct in the applications that would be necessarily made to him by this State.

I assured him that he might depend on the earliest advice of your resolutions on the point which I would with his permission particularly recommend to your notice and he cheerfully assented

He seemed to think there was a probability of your having some understanding with the Sha and in that point suggested the possible influence it might have in producing a coalition between this state and Tipoo. To which I generally replied that he might rest perfectly assured that your councils would embrace every predicament of prospective policy and that your decisions would be guided by wisdom and rectitude

In my address of the 13th instant I had the honour to mention considerable commotion having been caused in the city and neighbouring camps by the murder of a Mr. Gossan a native of Ireland commanding a corps in Nanna's service

This gentleman had in the style of this country gone to Nanna to demand his heavy arrears and was led from his (N's) tent by a principal person of that Minister under a promise to discharge his demand, instead of which he stepped from him on the road and the unfortunate man was immediately assassinated with four of his followers by a crowd of irregulars that had assembled round him.

This event gave rise to apprehensions in N. that the corps of the deceased might attempt to revenge his death and he immediately sent to require my good offices to prevent further mischief with an assurance of giving every satisfaction in his power for what had been done.



I accordingly sent my Munshy to give all practicable assistance in remedying the consequences of so sinister and melancholy a circumstance, the discussions of which prevented my audience of leave taking place yesterday.

Tho' this unfortunate man's situation placed him and his dependants out of the reach of my authoritative protection and interposition, you will, I trust, Hon'ble Sir, be gratified on principles of humanity and the regard due to the persons and property of our fellow subjects in any situation, to find that the heavy arrears of the deceased have been discharged and that there is a prospect of N.'s attempting to relieve himself from the stigma of so black a deed by punishing the perpetrators of it.

On the 19th instant I dismissed the vackeel of Govinrou Guykwar who during my residence at Bombay waited on Governor Duncan and afterwards accompanied me hither

I have the honour to enclose copy of my letter to his master by which you will perceive that I have presented him an elephant and a pair of mirrors in return for his presents to me which with the presents to the agent will, I hope, meet your approval.

The meeting of the Peshwa with Ragojee Bhosla's son and brother whose arrival was mentioned in a former address and the delay of which was cause of dissatisfaction to Ragojee, took place this afternoon.

Aazim-al-Omra has sent me drafts of three letters which he wishes to transmit by me to Marquis Cornwallis, Mr. Johnson and Sir John Kennaway copies of which when furnished shall be submitted to your notice. He has likewise signified his intention of giving me a verbal commission.

Not having encouraged this Durbar's advance of send a person with me to Europe I have not heard anything more on the subject

Permit me to suggest your writing a congratulatory letter to the Peshwa on his nuptials in addition to those which I presume will have been dispatched on his accession to the Musnud.

The meeting between the chiefs and the son and brother of Ragojee Bhosla has prevented my audience of leave this day, but I have every reason to expect it will take place in the course of tomorrow.

**No. 354**—Malet reports to the Governor of Madras the prospect of a settlement of the troubles at Poona.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—LORD HOBART, GOVERNOR, FORT ST. GEORGE.

*Poona, 20th February 1797.*

I have to thank your Lordship for Major Doveton's intelligence under date the 4th forwarded to me by Mr. Secretary Jackson under the 7th instant.

On the 17th instant the nuptials of the Peshwa were celebrated with a grand daughter of the late Hurry Punt and on the 18th I had the honour to pay him a visit of congratulation on that occasion

This day all the chiefs are to have a meeting with the son and brother of Ragojee Bhosla who lately arrived here which, added to the late meeting of Emrut Rou, Doullut Rou Sindia and N. F., corroborates the probability of a speedy settlement.

**No. 355**—Malet writes a farewell letter to Col. Palmer.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—COL. WILLIAM PALMER.

*Poona, 21st February 1797*

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 29th ultimo, and am happy to find that my sentiments regarding the Shah's advance this season coincide with yours. My accompanying official dispatches will acquaint you of my final determination to withdraw and, as I only had it in my power to carry it into effect this evening, you will perceive I have not lost a moment in the communication. As it is now late and I am to move in the morning, time only admits of requesting you to accept my most hearty wishes for the success of all your pursuits, personal and official, particularly the important objects that you now have in view, and to assure you of the real esteem and regard of, my dear sir,

Your most obedient servant,

**No. 356**—Malet informs the Governors of Bombay and Madras of his having left charge of the Poona Residency.

FROM—CHARLES W. MALET,

TO—GOVERNOR, FORT ST. GEORGE, AND TO THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

*Poona, 21st February 1797.*

My Lord,

Having this day taken my leave of this Court on the most satisfactory manner, I take the liberty to trouble your Lordship with such part of my despatches to the Governor General on the occasion as seems proper for your Lordship's information and with every good wish for the success of your Lordship's measures.

**No. 357**—Malet forwards to the Governor General his last report on Poona affairs.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BT., GOVERNOR GENERAL,  
FORT WILLIAM.

*Poona, 21st February 1797.*

Honourable Sir,

Agreeable to what I had the honour to mention to you yesterday Dada Gudjera<sup>d</sup> a Bramin Chief of the first consequence in this state and nearly related to Nana visited me early this morning and invited me to the Peshwa's and Nanna's with which I complied as soon as possible proceeding first to Nanna's.

After the first compliment he took up the subject of my departure in a strain of friendship and civility that seemed sincere, and to which I replied in such terms as the occasion required, observing that as the friendship of the two states had been cemented through his means during my eleven years' residence, so I doubted not he would exert himself to encrease it through Mr Uhthoff whom he would find equally disposed with myself to promote it. He then enquired earnestly whether Mr. Uhthoff was to remain here, expressed his regard for him in handsome terms and a perfect confidence in his experience of this Court and good disposition towards it.

He added that it was true he had with me hitherto cemented the friendship of the two states, but that times were altered and he could not yet form a judgment of the future regarding which he requested my advice as a friend

I replied that to attempt to give him advice would be presumption particularly in the affairs of his own state, so unknown to me, so well known to him, that it was evident to me that the same wisdom that had conducted matters to the present happy state of reconciliation, would perfect that good work and render it permanent which I looked upon as synonymous to an encrease of friendship between the states. With this he seemed well satisfied, but rejoined that in the event of circumstances rendering his retreat necessary, he hoped I would settle his favourable reception at Benares, on which point, first deprecating his having recourse to such a step, I referred him to Mr Uhthoff for an explanation of your instructions on that subject.

I enquired of the motions of Zuman Sha. He replied that he was still at or in the neighbourhood of Lahore and seemed disposed to remain there

\*Vishnupant Dada Cadre, a banker of Poona and father-in-law of Nana Fadnis. He constructed the Murlidhar temple which exists at Sadashiv Peth, Poona.

and to reduce the neighbouring country, that the Sics had not assembled in force but that parties of them hovered round and harassed the quarters of Sha's troops. He enquired as to the intentions of the Governor General which I explained as propriety and my knowledge permitted. He asked me, tho' he thought some understanding subsisted between the Sha and the Vizeer, whether that prince could or would take any part for or against the Sha without concert with our Government, to which I replied that I thought not, and that as the Governor General's visit to Lucknow was at his particular request that circumstance seemed to confirm my opinion. With this he seemed satisfied.

He was particular in his enquiries about the voyage to Europe and insisted on my writing him by every opportunity, requesting me also to carry a letter from him to Marquis Cornwallis and to take charge of some tokens of the regard of this state for my masters to which I assented, but which from my departure this night will not probably be ready in time.

He repeatedly assured me of the immutability of his resolution to preserve to the utmost of his power the engagements of the two states and of his regard for the Company's Government.

He then made me the usual presents on such occasions and preceded me to the Peshwa's, where I soon followed and was received on entering by Emrut Rou who embraced the interval before his brothers' coming to make the most flattering professions, showing me at the same time the ring I had lately presented him which he meant constantly to wear in token of his regard.

On Badjirou's entering I explained the cause of my visit, requested his permission to depart, pointed out Mr. Uthhoff as my present successor and recommended the same attention to the engagements subsisting between the two states that had been concluded through N F. which had, I was happy to say, been paid to them during the long residence which I had the happiness of closing, at a most auspicious season of domestic felicity and with every appearance of an encrease of foreign friendship not only with the Co. but with the Nazim by the approaching amicable dismissal of A. O. to Hyderabad, which as pregnant with good to the three allied states, would doubtless be highly agreeable to the Governor General.

The Peshwa after interchanging a few words with N F. replied that to the friendship with the late Madarou he had to add that of his late father Ragonath Rou for the Honourable Co., and that he only regretted that my early departure prevented my witnessing its effects which he should be happy to manifest through Mr. Uthhoff. He expressed a favourable disposition in the case of Azim-al-Omra and on my taking leave after a very cordial injunction to keep him advised of my future welfare, the usual presents were made and I retired; after which I proceeded to

the houses of Dada Gudjera, Moro Punt and Baba Fulkia and therewith terminated my visits on this occasion

In the afternoon Nanna paid me a take leave visit, on which occasion he acquainted me that some difficulties still presented in the accommodation of affairs between Sindia and Azim-al-Omra, the former excepting to the engagements to the latter as having been insidiously imposed upon him, that Badjirou inclined to his side of the question and that he (N.) was reduced to the delicate predicament of exposure to the reproaches of deserting his master's interest if he took part with A.O., whose claims to him appeared founded. He said that it was now in contemplation that the Peshwa should not re-enter his tents; that Sindia should approach the city and A.O. move to some distance from it. In reply to my query he said Doulatabad had been promised to Sindia and that Ahmednuggur was talked of in lieu of that cession being impracticable. This confirms the jarring circumstance I have already had the honour to mention. From the whole of this communication I am inclined to think that wishing to evade compliance with these immense cessions they have made to A.O., they mean to make use of the instrumentality of Sindia's pretended opposition to accomplish it, while the Bramins affecting a good disposition toward A.O., will as occasion may offer, play him likewise off against Sindia, whose power in the late revolutions has been too much felt not to be extremely obnoxious. On this very intimate state of things with the help of his imperfect explanation, N. F. did me the honour to ask my advice, but relieved me from the difficulty of an answer by desiring I would favour him with it after considering the subject, so that I only took the liberty of observing that as the Peshwa's engagements to Azim-al-Omra were the first he had entered into, their faithful discharge would seem expedient as a basis for the confidence of all other powers. Little further passed except a repetition of professions and on his departure made him the usual presents.

Having now, Honourable Sir, come to the close of my functions, I take the liberty of winding them up with a separate letter explanatory of my resignation and with every good wish for the continuance of the prosperity of your Government have the honour to remain,

Honourable Sir, etc.,

P.S.—It escaped me to mention that on returning from my audience of leave, I found a person waiting for me with 15,000 Rs. with a message from the Peshwa that he begged my acceptance of that sum as a parting mark of regard to defray in part the expenses of my journey, to which I made a proper acknowledgment and shall carry the amount to the Honourable Co.'s credit.

**No. 358**—Malet tenders to the Governor General his resignation rendering full reasons for the step he took. It is a masterly statement full of dignified resentment. At the end is a short note from Ulthoff intimating the departure of Malet and his own desire of resigning his assistantship at the Poona Residency and reverting to his previous appointment under the Bombay Presidency. See Nos. 358 & 369.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 21st February 1797.*

Honourable Sir,

Having at length procured this Court's permission to withdraw under the pleasing circumstances of an improved prospect of peace in Europe and an apparent settlement of the affairs of this State, in the Durbar's signification of which to me considerable efficacy has been attributed to the conduct of this Residency, I shall now proceed to trouble you with my determination on the extract of the Honourable Company's commands of the 25th May 1796 respecting me, which I had the honour to transmit to you under the 27th ultimo.

You may recollect, honourable Sir, that on the 2nd January 1796 I explained to you the irksome circumstances that forced me to announce my resolution of quitting India in the ships of this season, in pursuance of a painful sacrifice of inclination to a preservation of that consistency of conduct and principle, by which only I could justify the honours and distinctions of which I had been deemed worthy by our employers and our sovereign, unalloyed and uninterrupted except in the instance of my supersession by Mr Duncan's appointment to the Government of Bombay.

The subsequent receipt of the honourable the Court of Directors' above-mentioned commands respecting me couched in terms so honourable to my character and so soothing to my wounded feelings, convinces me that with sentiments so favourable their former conduct, (tho' unfortunately for me and for the principle of preserving an emulous pride in their servants), must have been influenced by some uncontrollable necessity or some indispensable expediency, a conviction so cheering that (had emergency pressed or a prospect of good to my country so required), it would have induced me without hesitation to have taken my seat at the Bombay Board even under my junior, but no such public emergency presenting as a salve for acquiescence in degradation, I must from a dread of tarnishing the consular dignity by accepting it under personal derogation, continue at present, however reluctantly, to forego the offer of that elevated and enviable station, I say, enviable since languishing as I do for a return to the society of my countrymen after a seclusion of 27 years foreign residence, nothing could have been more grateful (gratifying) to me than a seat at the Bombay Board, had it been compatible with the undiminished

respectability I had hitherto enjoyed in the society, my present exclusion from which I cannot sufficiently lament.

The consolatory influence of the Honourable Court's flattering invitation conveyed in the same letter to continue in the discharge of the duties of this station, preceded by the respectable signification of your wish and this Court's friendly solicitation to the same purport, would induce me to sacrifice all perseverance in the reasons assigned for my resignation in my address of the 2nd of January 1796, did I conceive that the continuance of my residence was essential to our national interests, but having under your auspices happily steered through all the intricacies and discordances of a disputed succession of this Government, to its settlement in the person of the rightful claimant, and by the rectitude of our conduct and respect for Badjirou's rights established and received an acknowledgment of our claim to his friendship and regard, while on the other hand, a gentleman of approved talents and undoubted experience (tho' not the one\* whom I had taken the liberty to recommend) has been by you appointed my successor, I am encouraged to hope that not only you, honourable Sir, but on your representation the honourable the Court of Directors will be induced to approve of my resigning this station and of my returning to Europe by the ships of this season, a step abstracted from existing public circumstances rendered necessary for the renovation of an impaired constitution after 27 years not inactive service in this country, to which necessity I am sorry to have to add others connected with my private affairs, that urgently require my presence in England

I am further induced on the ground of the Honourable Court's spontaneous and highly esteemed acknowledgment of my claim to their future favour, which I am disposed to flatter myself will not be invalidated by your testimony to my conduct under your administration, to entertain a firm hope that in the event of the re-establishment of my health and the regulation of affairs, my absence will not be suffered to prejudice my benefiting by their appointment to a seat at the Bombay Council Board, whenever circumstances may render my accession to it proper and convenient

In which hope, I am the more sanguine from the consideration that Mr. Griffith has, in the course of his service, visited England twice and that his present appointment to the Bombay Council and provisional succession to the Government had taken place during his absence and has been confirmed since that absence was known to the Honourable Court, that Mr. Stevens the other gentleman lately appointed has visited England as has Mr. Rivett who with me is included in the provisional appointment, circumstances which render my expectation of the same indulgence that has been enjoyed by them, without prejudice to my appointment in common with them, not unreasonable, even abstracted

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\*Mr Ulthoff.

from those special claims to favour which our Honourable masters have been pleased to admit, nor is it to be forgotten that even were I to take my seat at the Bombay Board at this time, the practicability of which is, I understand, a point of reference to your Honourable Board on grounds independent of my option, the return of Mr. Griffith and the exculpation of Mr. Stevens whose appointment precedes mine, would subject me to the necessity of again withdrawing to make room for them to which predicament, I flatter myself, our Honourable employers would not wish to expose me and which, by my visit to Europe, is unexceptionally avoided.

Having thus, Honourable Sir, explained to you, I trust satisfactorily, the grounds on which I reconcile my resignation to my public responsibilities and my personal hopes and feelings, nothing remains to add but that I have this night devolved the duties of this Residency on my assistant Mr. Uthoff and shall proceed to-morrow morning to Bombay to embark on one of the Company's ships destined to return direct to England. But as there is a possibility of events occurring between the period of devolving the duties of my Residency on Mr. Uthoff and my embarkation, which might render the resumption of my charge indispensable, permit me to hope, Honourable Sir, that you will acquiesce in the propriety of deferring the signification of my absolute resignation until my actual departure from Bombay, which is likely to be very soon after my arrival there.

In this arrangement, I have the satisfaction of thinking that so long as the provisional administration of the duties of this station shall rest with Mr. Uthoff's integrity and ability, it will be as safe as in my hands, and of hoping that on his delivering over the Residency to Col. Palmer, whom you have been pleased to express your intention of appointing my successor, the national honor and interests may flourish with increased splendour, under the influence of his long experience and approved talents

I have etc., etc.,  
C. W. MALET.

FROM—UHTHOFF,  
TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Sir Charles Malet set off for Bombay early this morning.

At the arrival of Col. Palmer here, I have to solicit permission to resign this assistantship, when it is my intention to seek, under my own Government of Bombay, (after upwards of 13 years service immediately under the Government General) such a situation as may, on public and private principles, be more compatible with my standing, now of near 17 years in the Company's service, than the assistantship to this Residency.

Poona, 22nd February 1797.

J. UHTHOFF,





BEHIROPUNT MEHENDALE, SIR CHARLES MALET,  
NURUDDIN HUSSEN KHAN, J. UTHOFF

## SECTION 8

### *Malet—Personal*

**No. 359.**—This testifies to Malet's discussions with the Poona Court for settling the preliminaries of the grand treaty of alliance that was executed later.

*Extract from a general letter from the Governor General in Council to the Hon'ble Secret Committee of the Hon'ble Court of Directors*

*Fort William, 6 November 1788.*

This has been the leading and fixed principle of the negotiation, and in support of it we could only offer an advantage in those territories which might be subdued by our conjoined forces, if ever they should be called into action. No further promises or concessions have been made, and to render a negotiation upon these terms successful, required great judgment, skill and abilities. Mr. Malet's discussions have brought it to the form of preliminaries for a treaty without expressing any particular solicitude for its completion. We shall not fail to cultivate the harmony that subsists between us and the Peshwah, and improve it if possible by a formal alliance on terms favourable to the Company's interest

**No. 360.**—Malet's prudence is extolled by the Court of Directors.

*Extract of a general letter from the Hon'ble Secret Committee of the Honourable Court of Directors to the Governor General in Council.*

*London, 15 April 1789.*

The measures taken by your Resident at Poonah to secure the co-operation of that Government in case the Company should be engaged in hostilities

with Tippoo Sultaun are perfectly judicious and not incompatible with any existing treaty. It will certainly conduce to our security in the Carnatic to cultivate a firm alliance with the Peshwa. We remark with pleasure the prudence and attention of Mr. Malet in carrying Lord Cornwallis's judicious schemes into effect; and if such a treaty were to be carefully negociated in time of profound peace, we are not without hopes that an arrangement might be formed with the Peshwa calculated for our mutual safety and upon terms perhaps more favourable for the Company than those indicated in his Lordship's letter to the Resident of the 10th March 1788, which were dictated by the urgent expectation of an impending war.

**No. 361.**—Cornwallis testifies to the great trust and confidence that Government placed in the integrity and prudence of Malet.

FROM—EARL CORNWALLIS,

TO—C. W. MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 25 January 1790.*

I have received your letters dated the 11th and 25th ultimo to which I shall send an early reply, and shall at present only take notice of your letters to Mr. Secretary Hay in answer to one that you received from him, communicating the desire of the Board that, as much economy may be observed in the establishment and in all the contingent expenses of the Residency at Poona as may be compatible with the means of duly executing the public business, and with a proper attention to the support of the dignity of this Government; and it gave me much concern to observe that you had construed some expressions in Mr. Hay's letter, as conveying an implied censure upon you.

Mr. Hay's letter was written in consequence of a general revisal at the Board of the establishments and expenses of all the residencies at the different Courts in India, \* \* \* [torn] to employ some of those men who are upon high wages, without an absolute necessity for their services, but at the same time without conceiving that you acted improperly, whilst by doing so, you did not exceed the 5,000 Rupees per month, to which the contingent expenses of your Residency are limited, it was thought proper to offer the subject to your attention.

I must, however, assure you that from the experience which I have had for upwards of three years of an uniform propriety in your public conduct

I have as thorough a reliance upon your disinterestedness, economy and prudence, that if, after reconsidering your establishment in consequence of the Secretary's letter, you had given it as your opinion that it could not be diminished without occasioning some inconvenience to you in the discharge of your public duties, or without lowering your personal or official character in the eyes of the Court at which you reside, I should most readily have approved of its being continued; and, in further justice to my own sentiments of you, I must add that, in matters of much more importance than that which I have now mentioned, I look upon you to be well entitled to the fullest confidence of this Government.

**No. 362.**—Malet's conduct is highly approved by the G. G. in the extracts quoted herein

*Extract of a general letter from the Governor General in Council to the Hon'ble Secret Committee of the Hon'ble Court of Directors,*

*Fort William, 9 January 1789.*

The enclosed copy of a letter from Mr Malet lately received and as yet unrecorded will afford you complete and satisfactory information of the political state of our negotiations at Poonah. By former intelligence we were acquainted that the deputies sent by the Mahratta Ministry to Seringapatam were returned and that Tippoo had liquidated the balance owing upon the sum of sixty lacks which had been settled by the last treaty between the two Governments to be paid to the Peshwah.

Whatever consequences may result to the Mahrattah State from their refusal to grant any indemnification for the detention of the French ship in consequence of Monsieur De Conway's requisition, we do not consider ourselves under any obligation to take part in them and concur entirely in the propriety of Mr Malet's answer to the Minister on this subject that he must stand to the consequences of acts of depredation committed and avowed by him.

*Extract of a general letter from the Governor General in Council to the Hon'ble Secret Committee of the Hon'ble Court of Directors dated 7th December 1789*

We have the honour to enclose copies of the last letters, dated the 9th of October and 6th ultimo, which have been received from the Resident at Poona. They are very satisfactory on the points to which they relate, and convey in general a clear testimony of the great respect entertained at that Durbar for the English Government.

*Extract of a general letter from the Governor General in Council  
to the Hon'ble Secret Committee of the Hon'ble Court of Directors  
dated 12th April 1790.*

You will observe that this important object has been forwarded with great zeal, ability, and dispatch by the Residents at Poona and Hyderabad, in whose departments it lay to negotiate the treaties and we are persuaded that it will appear to you that their conduct has been justly entitled to our highest approbation

**No. 363.**—The G. G. asks Malet to dispense with the marks of submission to the Peshwa, as he was the representative of a power equal in status to the last named

*Extract of a general letter from the Governor General in Council to  
the Hon'ble Court of Directors dated 10th January 1790*

(Despatched) 17th August 1790.

Although amongst other external marks of respect, we have hitherto submitted to the humiliating ceremonial of presenting Nuzzers to the Princes of the House of Temur, we have doubted much whether that practice is either politic or necessary. But we have acquainted Mr. Malet that far from admitting a similar claim from the Peshwa, we expect that all the princes of this country except those of the Royal Family shall habituate themselves to consider the English Residents at their respective Courts as the representatives of a Government at least equal in power and dignity to their own, and consequently entitled to claim an exemption from those marks of submission, which are exacted from inferior states as well as from all their own subjects. We have therefore highly approved of his having declined, previous to his communicating with Captain Kennaway, to present a Nuzzer with his own hands to the Peshwa, and desired that he would never, even through the medium of one of his own servants, agree to place himself in so degrading a situation, as it would lessen the dignity of the British Government in the eyes of the other powers of this country

**No. 364.**—The G. G. mentions how ably the negotiations for a treaty of alliance were conducted by Malet

*Extract of a general letter from the Governor General in Council to  
the Hon'ble Court of Directors dated 17th August 1790.*

You will observe, in the correspondence that passed on the subject of the alliance now concluded, that an opposition to the measure by

a powerful party, chiefly of the Rastah family at the Poona Durbar, assisted by the arrival of vakeels from Tippoo with a large sum of money that was due to the Mahrattas, was supposed to delay the execution of the treaty at that Court and occasioned for some time a serious apprehension that the intrigues of Tippoo's adherents might prevent it altogether. But these were happily surmounted by the spirited and unwearied exertions of your resident Mr. Malet, the steadiness of the Minister, Nana Furnavese, and the good offices of Behroo Punt, Agent of the Durbar for transacting the business of the English and we must not exclude from the number of their friends the Mahratta Chief Mahajee Scindia, who, we believe, contributed by his own representations to forward the alliance \*

We have before had occasion to point out the obligations of the Company to Mr. Malet and Captain Kennaway for their able and zealous discharge of their respective duties as your Ministers at the Courts of Poona and Hyderabad. We must now allow to them their proportion of merit in the success which has attended their exertions for the interest of the Company, and add that the uniform and judicious attention which has been paid by those gentlemen to the instructions of the Governor General in the delicate and important negotiations with which they were charged and the zeal and ability which they manifested in bringing them to so desirable a conclusion, appear to us highly deserving of some distinguished mark of approbation from your Hon'ble Court.

Mr Malet's letters, to which we have referred in the first part of this address will lay before you the whole of the negotiation which he conducted with so much ability for a treaty with the Marattas. For some time before this treaty was finally concluded (and to interrupt or prevent it various difficulties and delays were occasioned by the enemies of the two states) it was once resolved by the Ministry at Poona, not to apply before the rains, for any detachment of the Company's forces to act with the Mahratta army. To suspend a material part of the treaty known to have been settled tho' not concluded between the two Governments, might have held out encouragement to the enemies of the alliance and it was on that account of consequence that they should change that resolution. It was also of importance to us that so public a proof of the close connexion between the two states should not be withheld at the beginning of the war. Mr Malet was therefore very solicitous in opposing this design of not applying for your battalions, and his arguments had the best effect. A requisition was made on the part of the Peshwa of the force stipulated by treaty to be furnished by the Bombay Government to act with the Mahratta army, and Jeyghier, a place about 25 coss to the southward of Fort Victoria was appointed for the route by which the troops were to join. It was also declared by the Minister that Pursaram Bhaow should be dispatched,

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\* Raste was not opposed to the alliance. He was only afraid of vengeance from Tipu as his territory was contiguous to Tipu's

without loss of time, at the head of an army of not less than 25,000 men to be in readiness to invade Tippoo's northern frontier the instant advice should be received of General Medow's commencement of hostilities. The Governor in Council at Bombay immediately signified their acquiescence to the requisition of the battalions. It was notified to the Durbar, pass-ports were furnished, and the necessary orders were given to the Mahratta officers in Jeygheer for the friendly reception and assistance of the detachment on its arrival in that district. Mr. Malet was extremely useful in procuring draft and carriage cattle for this detachment and in providing such other supplies for it as could not be procured so easily at Bombay. Mr. Joshua Uthoff, who had been for several years Mr. Malet's assistant, and had conducted himself with great propriety, was appointed by the Bombay Government to be Paymaster and Commissary of stores to the detachment, and we highly approved the measure not only because it was likely to prevent any misunderstanding between the commanding officer of your troops and the Mahratta chief, but as it would be the means of Mr. Malet's obtaining the most minute information of every thing that passes, and he would thus have it in his power to explain circumstances to the Durbar, if occasion should at any time require him to do.

**No. 365.**—Malet and Kennaway are rewarded with baronetcy.

*Extract of a general letter from the Honourable Court of Directors  
to the Governor General in Council dated the 6th May 1791.*

Upon a perusal of the several papers upon the subject of the late negotiations with the Courts of Poona and Hyderabad, we concur with you in the opinion you have expressed of the zeal and abilities of Mr. Malet and Captain Kennaway, the Ministers at those respective Courts. We have the pleasure further to acquaint you that His Majesty as a mark of his Royal approbation of their conduct, and in consideration of the services rendered by their exertions to the British interests in India, has been graciously pleased to confer upon them the dignity of the *Baronets of this Kingdom*. We were deeply penetrated with a sense of His Majesty's most gracious attention to the interests of the East India Company in this mark of Royal distinction towards two gentlemen, whose merits in the situations they at present hold in the Company's service, have been so eminently conspicuous as a further mark of our approbation of the conduct of Mr. Malet and Captain Kennaway. We have taken out their patents\* at the Company's expense.

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\* Letters patent

We have read the several papers referred to in the 33<sup>d</sup> paragraph of your letter in the commercial department of 31<sup>st</sup> July 1790 relative to the commercial intercourse between the Company's dominions and those of the Marattas and the Soubah of the Deccan. The respective letters of Sir Charles Malet and Sir John Kennaway of the 27<sup>th</sup> November and 14<sup>th</sup> December 1789, and the papers which accompanied them, contain much useful information upon the matter that was referred to them. Our approbation of your endeavors for extending the commercial intercourse between the Maratta country and the Company's territories, has been already expressed in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph of our Political Dispatch of the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1790. We make no doubt that upon your receiving the report of the Board of trade upon the papers that have been submitted to their inspection you will resume your deliberations upon the subject and forward to us such resolutions as you may deem proper upon the occasion.

**No. 366.**—General Abercromby testifies officially to the zealous exertions made by Malet during the allies' war with Tipu.

FROM—MAJOR GENERAL SIR ROBERT ABERCROMBY, K. B.,

TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET

*Calcutta, 16<sup>th</sup> November 1793.*

I have on many occasions given the most ample testimony to Lord Cornwallis, to the Court of Directors etc, on your animated and patriotic zeal in promoting the good of the service and I now most solemnly declare that if the co-operation and junction of the Bombay troops with the grand army under Lord Cornwallis contributed in any degree towards the honourable termination of the war, it was by your exertions we were enabled to do so; for without your ample supplies of fine cattle, good drivers, excellent pack saddles, etc, etc. the attempt would have been vain. Your pack saddles were so well constructed, and found to be of such utility in the first campaign, that at the recommendation of the commissary (Mr. Pemberton) I contracted for a considerable supply of the same sort at Tellicherry, although the price paid to the contractor was, I believe, near double the sum that was charged for yours

*Private.*

**No. 367.**—Malets resents the censure passed on his conduct towards the Bombay Government See No. 247 above.

FROM—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE

*Poona, 5<sup>th</sup> August 1794.*

From my address on the (subject) of your disapprobation of the style of my representation exposing the unjust treatment of the Bombay



Government Board, you will have learnt my poignant sorrow on that occasion, and the fundamental merits of my conduct, with an acknowledgment of which you have so kindly favored me, will, I trust, have induced you to palliate a censure, the severity of which gives me incessant uneasiness. Be assured, Sir, that in my letter to the Bombay Board, I meant not to express any disrespect but unfortunately their conduct had been such as to render the plainest facts the severest satire, and surely my wrongs gave me a right to complain, and my character and situation a right to expect attention, instead of which I was treated as on some former occasions with the most fastidious reserve.

**No. 368.**—Malet expresses his resentment at being superseded in the appointment to the Governorship of Bombay.

FROM—SIR C. W. MALET,

TO—THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS, LONDON.

*Poona, 5 November 1795.*

A letter from the Governor General of the 18th September was lately delivered by Mr Uthoff to the Peshwa, announcing the appointment of Mr. Duncan to the Government of Bombay. It is some consolation that absence relieved me from the mortification of being the announcer of my own supersession, at a court where hitherto my endeavours to support my official respectability, have derived energy from the apparent distinction of my employers and my sovereign. I propose to myself the honor of addressing the Governor General on this subject, on the accomplishment of Mr Duncan's appointment by his arrival at Bombay.

The late very unexpected death of the Peshwa is so interesting, and the consequences may be so important, that I have thought proper to furnish you with copies of my assistant's letters, detailing that extraordinary event, which, with copies of my own addresses to the Governor General since my return here, comprise every thing that I possess requisite to your information.

**No. 369.**—Malet in this letter expresses strong resentment at his being superseded by his junior Mr. Duncan and requests permission to resign his service at Poona. See No 358.

FROM—MR. C. W. MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 2nd January 1796.*

There are, it seems, certain situations, that place us in the awkward predicament of appearing to yield or to assume too much. In such a one do I find myself placed, by Mr. Duncan's appointment to and assumption

of, the Government of Bombay, as advised in my last; to which high station though I never advanced a pretension, yet, on finding a junior appointed to it, and that junior drawn from another presidency, every repugnance to entering on so delicate a subject yields to the imperious necessity of vindicating my public character, from the oblique reflection of so irregular a preference. And if, in expressing my sensations on such an occasion, I am subjected to the imputation of mistaken sensibility, I have to lament, that the frequent thanks and invariable approbation, of my superiors and employers, through twenty-five years' service, crowned by the honourable distinction of our gracious Sovereign, should have taught me a tenderness to public slight, which even my extreme reluctance and dishabitude to be the expositor of my own pretensions, cannot control.

Infinitely averse as I certainly am to the insidious task of personal competition with Mr. Duncan, whose character I highly respect, yet, as certainly should I feel myself a deserter of the honours that have been conferred on me, where I to shrink (seniority out of the question) from the honest rivalry of public desert, founded on the test of official record, with him or any of my fellow servants; and if, in this representation of what appears to me an injurious preference, the displeasure of our employers should be moved, it will, I trust, be instantly appeased, by the recollection of its originating solely in my anxiety to avoid the self-reproach of tacitly submitting to an humiliation, which their uniform approbation has taught me to think unmerited and injurious for luckless indeed would be my lot, were I to draw on myself their first displeasure, by an endeavour to support unstained and undiminished the honours and respectability derived from their and our Sovereign's distinguishing approbation.

Dreading, on one hand, the imputation of egotism, in pleading such a cause, and, on the other, of conscious dement or of criminal indifference by abandoning it to silence, I might, perhaps, have rested the preservation of my character from the injury of so partial a preference, on the numerous testimonies, afforded by official records, of the approbation, in every department of Government of the three presidencies, of the Court of Directors, and of our gracious Sovereign; but the voluminousness of those documents and the publicity of their existence, at once deters from, and obviates the necessity of recurring to so tedious and troublesome a process.

Having, by this painful endeavour to vindicate a character (which the previous goodness of our employers had taught me to hope could never have stood in need of such a justification) freed myself from the charge of tacit submission to public humiliation, which would have degraded me in my own estimation, beneath the dignity conferred on me by our masters and our Sovereign; and having thereby exonerated myself from the irksome burthen of self-reproach: reflecting also, that by the exclusion

of my foreign station from all responsibility to Mr Duncan's Government, the bitterness of immediate subordination to his authority is obviated. I shall not, at this very critical period, suffer my feelings to supersede that regard for the public good, which prescribes to me the incumbency of persevering, during the present important crisis, in the discharge of my ministerial functions at this Court. And you may rest assured, Hon'ble Sir, that the same principles that dictate this incumbency, shall, for the short period of its existence, not only insure to your administration and my country the same attention to their honor and interests, which it has ever been my most anxious study and ambition to exert, but also the same candid and confidential intercourse with Mr. Duncan, should he encourage it, which I have ever maintained with his predecessors.

It was my wish, Honourable Sir, to have removed from this situation to a domestic one of some authority under the Bombay Government, previous to my quitting India, where my influence might have been exerted, in procuring such provisions for the numerous native connexions I have formed in the course of my long foreign employments, and from whom I have experienced exemplary fidelity and attachment, as might have had the good effect of impressing on others the eligibility of a similar conduct, and have derived to our nation a succession of zealous services, but cut off from this desirable prospect, by the impracticability of serving under Mr Duncan, I take this earliest opportunity, after the completion of that gentleman's appointment, of requesting, that, as either the emergency that induced my return to this place will have ceased, and the general criticalness of affairs have assumed a more settled appearance, or, at all events, that you will have had ample time to make such arrangements as the occasion may require, I may be permitted to resign this station, so as to proceed to Europe by the ships of this time twelve months; in which Hon'ble Sir, I must request to be understood, as rather yielding, however reluctantly, to a consciousness of the inefficiency of my future services, with the diminished energy which I feel and which it would be dishonest to conceal; than from any captious resentment of dispensations, to which, however distressing, it is my business to submit cheerfully or decline respectfully. In a word, I find my best exertions have been ineffectual to put me on a footing with my fellow servants, and I sink beneath the chilling sentence of incapacitation.

I should feel myself essentially wanting to the important interests with which I have so long had the honor to be entrusted, were I, on declaring my resignation of them, to omit the only mode left me of extending my solicitude for them beyond my own administration, by recommending to your favourable consideration, in supplying my vacancy, the local knowledge, the pure integrity, the indefatigable industry, and general ability, of my assistant, Mr Unthoff, to all which, the experience of his ten years valuable assistance, entitles me to give my warmest testimony.

As the period of my services is now fixed, permit me, Hon'ble Sir, to recall to your memory, a subject, which affects, not only my future prospects, but the ancient rights of my family.

So long ago as the 14th August 1792, I had the honor to represent, that the favorable intention of our gracious Sovereign, in conferring on me the dignity of Baronetage, was liable to become a prejudice, instead of a benefit, unless the date of an ancient patent granted to my ancestor Sir Thomas Malet, and which had been suffered to lie dormant, were substituted, to the recent one granted by His Majesty, since, exclusive of the loss of rank, collateral hereditary claims would not apply to the new title, a consideration of greater consequence from my non-marriage.

Not having received any account of the result of this application, though sanctioned by your predecessor's approval, I have to repeat my request, that you will be pleased to place this circumstance in such a point of view to our Hon'ble Masters, as shall induce them to take such steps as may render His Majesty's gracious intentions towards me beneficial, instead of prejudicial

**No. 370**—Malet expresses his satisfaction at Col. Palmer's appointment as his successor at the Peshwa's Court.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—COLONEL WILLIAM PALMER, RESIDENT WITH DOULAT RAW SINDIA.

*Poona, 5th January 1796.*

Dear Sir,

Since I had the pleasure to write you under the 11th ultimo, I have been favoured with your letters for which I beg you to accept my best acknowledgments. I feel myself particularly indebted to the very kind and liberal terms, in which you have expressed yourself on the subject of your succession to this Residency and in the declaration of your disposition to extend your protection to those whom in this station I may have found worthy of mine, which from my letter of the 11th ultimo you will have found I had much at heart, and consequently have experienced a relief from your kind offers, proportionate to my anxiety on that point. Your feelings will I am sure have enabled you to account for the expression of mine regarding Mr Uthoff, when I last wrote, and tho' I cannot help confessing myself still under the same influence, yet as you seem to think the removal from your present station to this preferable to remaining at the Sindian Durbar, I cannot hesitate to congratulate you on the prospect of it afforded by the Governor-General's declaration, tho' the non-arrival of the ships, that are to return direct to Europe still keeps me very unexpectedly in suspense as to the time of my departure.

I perused with such concern the diminution of your hopes in favour of the unfortunate family of the late ingenious Mr. Wales, but not without a sanguine reliance that the kind perseverance of your endeavour of which you have been so good as to assure me, will produce an acceptable addition to the liberal contribution already afforded by the benevolence of the Society of Bombay

**No. 371**—Malet expresses both his resentment and gratification at Jonathan Duncan having been appointed to the Governorship of Bombay in preference to his own claims.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—THE HON'BLE J. DUNCAN, GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

*Poona, 10th January 1796.*

Dear Sir,

I was both grieved and gratified by your favor of the 5th instant, gratified by so pleasing and delicate a declaration of the regard of a respectable character, grieved by the painful reflection of my inability to benefit by it For the appointment that you now hold and which is so honourable a testimony to the merit of your services, unfortunately implies the most humiliating mark of the inefficiency of mine by their supersession in your favour. And under so unequivocal a signification of the sense of our employers my only resource is the avoidance of anything that might in the eyes of the world or in my own mind sanction their humiliating sentence.

As therefore my services hitherto stimulated by every laudable incitement and by the frequent approbation of my employers, have been ineffectual to preserve me from the chilling sentence of supersession and as I cannot in honor or honesty continue to serve in a public capacity with palsied ensergies and frozen powers, nor consistently with my principles and sensations take a place of comparative degradation in a society where my respectability through a period of nearly 20 years has been unquestioned, I have been reduced to the painful necessity not only of relinquishing the hope that I had long, but it seems vainly, cherished of retiring into the bosom of the presidency, under which I have been educated and spent the best part of my life for a season previous to my return to Europe, but to resign the hon'ble Company's service as per the enclosed extract of my letter to the Governor General of 2nd instant.

This explanation of causes that prevent my acceptance of your much esteemed offer of a seat in the Bombay Council, you will naturally conceive, Sir, must be extremely painful to me. It will not, however, I hope, prejudice me in your opinion and for my part be assured Sir, that tho' induced by, I hope, no sordid motives to lament my own humiliation, I can sincerely rejoice that the lot as it was to happen has fallen to you

and with unclouded candor, offer you as unreserved and confidential an intercourse as you may be pleased to encourage on personal or official grounds.

*P.S*—If not improper I should wish my declining a seat at the Bombay Board and the reasons were inserted in your records.

**No. 372**—Malet declines to work as member of the Bombay Council

FROM—CHARLES MALET,

TO—THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL OF BOMBAY.

*Poona, 16 February 1796.*

I have been duly honored with your letter of the 12th instant which has impressed me with the most lively sense of the liberality with which you have been pleased to acquiesce in my declining the honor of a seat at your Board

**No. 373**—Malet bewails the death of artist Wales in a destitute condition. See no. 353.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER

*Poona, 18 February 1796.*

Interested as I am in relieving the distresses of the unfortunate family of the late Mr. Wales,\* I feel in the most sensible manner your kind compassion for his orphan family and will by an early opportunity transmit agreeable to your desire the proposals for publishing by subscription the Bombay views, being his only work in immediate train of completion, his grand one of Hindoo Antiquities being under reference to the President of the A S's to procure it the able assistance of Mr. Holford to introduce it in the most respectable manner to the encouragement of the learned and the approbation of the public with the progress of which you shall be carefully acquainted.

*A life-sketch of Wales prepared by the editor.*

[James Wales, the well-known artist of the Peshwa's Court, was born in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, in 1747 of respectable parents. He was educated at Marischal College of Aberdeen. He came to India in 1791 and was introduced to the Peshwa by John Malcolm. Before leaving England he had exhibited his portraits at the Royal Academy. In India he chiefly engaged himself in copying the details of the cave-temples of Kondivta,† Elephanta and Kanheri in Salsette as well as the sea-fight

\*An account of Mr Wales' life and work is given in a note following this letter, as they have an important bearing on the Peshwa's court

†Near the present Vajreshwari, between Kurla and Andheri suburbs of Bombay

sculptures on the standing stones at Borivli about ten miles north of Bandra. Mr. Wales collaborated with another artist Mr. Thomas Daniel, R.A., who was in India from 1783 to 1793 and who painted several fine pictures out of sketches made by Wales. One such painting was in England in the possession of Sir Edward Malet, depicting the Maratha Darbar at Poona in which the treaty of alliance was in 1790 ratified by Malet with the Peshwa. This famous picture was afterwards completed and engraved in England by Daniel. It was considerably touched up about the year 1865 by Mr. Lewis, a brother of the Royal Academician of that name.

Wales was hardly four years in India during which time he established in Poona a school of painting for the young Peshwa and spent some months at the Ellora Caves from which he made 24 drawings, which with the plans were engraved and published after his death by Daniel in his work on "Hindu Excavations", 1803. While at Poona Wales painted three life-size portraits most likely from special sittings some time in the year 1793; they are of Sawai Madhaurao, Nana Fadnis, and Mahadji Sindia. These remained in the possession of Nana's descendant the jagirdar of Menavli and were sold to the Raja of Sangli where they can be seen at the local museum.

Mr. Wales caught fever while sketching at Kanheri and died at Thana under distressful circumstances on 13th November, 1795 aged 48 years, as is noted in a monumental tablet at St. Thomas Cathedral at Bombay. Mr. Wales's eldest daughter Susanne came out to India with her father and married Sir Charles Malet after he had resigned the company's service and retired to England.]

**No. 374—***Extract from Malet's report to the Court of Directors dated  
13th March 1796.*

I have not yet been honoured with the Govr. Genl.'s reply to my application of the 2nd January for permission to resign this station but I have great pleasure in transmitting the liberal terms in which Mr. Duncan has been pleased to accept of my declining his offer of a seat at the Board and which in my present predicament it is satisfactory to submit to you and the Hon'ble Court as an estimable testimony of the esteem of a respectable character. To my satisfaction on this occasion the Govr. Genl. has lately added the communication of the Hon'ble Court's approbation of my conduct in promoting the operations of the B'bay Army during the late War with Tipoo by the extra official assistance afforded by this Residency which testimony of the Hon'ble Court's favourable sense of my flattering endeavours signified in the 96th para, of their letter to the Govr. Genl. of the 3 July 1795, will at least clear the gloom that had overcast the eve of my long service.

**No. 375**—Palmer offers his homage to Malet on the latter's retirement.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—C. W MALET

*Fullehghur, 7th December 1796.*

Sir John Shore having publicly announced to you his intention of appointing me to your station if you should finally determine to retire, I cannot dispense with giving you my assurances that if this great trust should devolve upon me, I shall enter upon it with every sentiment of consideration and respect for your public principles and measures, and of kindness towards every person whom you have judged worthy of your protection and esteem

It was but very lately that I was certainly (though privately) informed that I was destined to succeed you I confess that I regarded this event as a kind of natural transition from my present Residency, but should by no means have thought that I had any right to complain if Mr. Uthoff had been selected to fill that office in which he has so long served with zeal and reputation

I am very anxious to learn who will now be selected for the ostensible head of the Mahratta Empire I am apprehensive that Nana Funnawees will be but little restrained in his choice, by the consideration of having made the right of the lineal heir the pretext of his late opposition.

I should be happy, if I could encourage your expectation of any liberal assistance from this quarter to the family of Mr Wales That generous spirit which formerly pervaded the settlement of Bengal no longer exists. But I will not therefore relax in my exertions for the benefit of the distressed.

**No. 376**—Malet offers his congratulations to Palmer on his having been appointed to succeed him at Poona, expresses regret that Uthoff was not given the post and entrusts his whole suite to Palmer's care thereafter.

FROM—C. W. MALET,

TO—COL. WILLIAM PALMER.

*Poona, 11 December 1796.*

The accompanying duplicate official dispatches will acquaint you of my return to this place, the day after which I received advice from the Governor General of your going to be appointed my successor, which, while on one hand I apprehend it can furnish very little ground of satisfaction to you, as a preferable object to your present station, and consequently scarce worth the trouble of a change, overwhelms me with concern and disappointment, in the hopes I had entertained in favor of



Mr Uhthoff's succession, whose meritorious services, through the long period of 11 years, would, I had flattered myself, have entitled him to the appointment, but the Governor General and Council thought otherwise and I have only to submit.

In the event of my departure for Europe this year, which is still in suspense by non-arrival of the ships, Mr Uhthoff will of course remain to deliver over the Residency to you, after which he will withdraw, to benefit by those expectations which his rank and meritorious services entitle him to from the Bombay Government. The remainder of my family is composed of Captains Ward and Manley 1st and 2nd officers of my escort, and Mr. Findlay, the Surgeon of the Residency, who, in the event of its being agreeable to you, would, I apprehend, have no objection to retaining their situations, your early sentiments on which point would be highly desirable for the regulation of their future plans.

It may not be improper to mention to you, that, I have Durbar agents, Persian, English, and Marratta writers, and servants of all other descriptions, whose length and fidelity of service interest me much in their future welfare, and will, I trust, apologize for my requesting you to let me know, if any of them will be acceptable to you ; for your guidance . . . . I send you a list of my establishment in the state to which it has been lately reduced.

**SECTION 9**  
*Raghunathrao's Jewels*

**No. 377**—The Court of Directors order the return of Raghoba's jewels to his heir.

**FROM—GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL, BOMBAY,**

**TO—CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.**

*Bombay Castle, 10th August 1787.*

The Court of Directors in their commands of the 23rd March last, having directed that the jewels mortgaged by Ragoba on account of his debt to the Company should be realized here, or otherwise transmitted to Europe and having instructed us to give the heirs of Ragoba a preference in the purchase of them, you will please to make a tender of them accordingly to the Ministers for the use of the Peshwa, at the same time giving them expressly to understand that no less than six lacs and a quarter will be accepted for them, which sum must be absolutely paid before they will be delivered.

We are,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

(Signed) BODDAM "

( „ ) ANDREW RAMSAY.

( „ ) ROBERT SPARKS.

**No. 378**—The Court of Directors instruct the Governor General to return the family jewels of the Peshwa which had been pledged with them by Raghunathrao.

FROM—THE COURT OF DIRECTORS,  
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

*London, 13th April 1791.*

The Court of Directors have come to a resolution that the jewels belonging to the deceased Ragobah, which were sent from Bombay to Europe, shall be returned to you by one of the ships of this season. As we understand these to be family jewels, we are desirous that you should take proper opportunity of presenting them to the Peshwa, in the name of the Company, as a mark of their attachment, unless any circumstances may have occurred, which may suggest to you the propriety of suspending the execution of this order, in which case, you will keep these jewels in deposit and advise us thereof.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

(Signed) LUSHINGTON,

( „ ) W. DEVAYNEN,

( „ ) JOHN MANSHIP.

**No. 379**—The Resident is requested to communicate to the Governor General the proper time and mode of returning the jewels to the Peshwa.

FROM—SECRETARY, GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL,  
TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort William, 6th June 1793.*

I am instructed by the Governor General in Council to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a letter dated the 13th of April 1791, which was received from the Secret Committee of the Hon'ble Court of Directors, and to request your opinion for his Lordship's information, as to the proper time and mode of giving effect to the Company's conditional orders for presenting in their name to the Peshwa as a mark of their attachment, the jewels belonging to the deceased Ragobah, which were sent from Bombay to Europe. They have been for some time in deposit here; and directions would have been given ere this respecting them, if the multiplicity of business in which Lord Cornwallis was engaged during the war, had not occasioned the subject to be accidentally overlooked.

**No. 380**—The Governor General conveys to the Peshwa the desire of the Court of Directors to return the family jewels as a mark of their respect and friendship

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL,  
TO—THE PESHWA,

*8th October 1793.*

The Court of Directors who are at all times anxious to testify their respect and esteem for you and to contribute as far as possible to strengthen the friendship subsisting between the Poona State and the Company, have sent to me the jewels which were deposited some years ago by Ragonaut Row with the Government of Bombay, and understanding that they are jewels which appertain to your family they conceive that it will be satisfactory to you to receive them. They have accordingly requested that I would send them to you. At this time that I am about to embark for England, I am particularly happy in having this opportunity to forward the views of the Company in this respect and I have therefore informed Sir John Shore of these circumstances and have requested that he will comply with the wishes of the Court of Directors as soon as may be convenient.

I beg leave to refer you to Sir C. W. Malet for further particulars.

To

Nana Purnaveese,  
of the same tenor and date.

A true copy.

(Signed) G. F. Cherry,

Persian Translator.

**No. 381**—The Governor General requests the Resident to ask the Peshwa to appoint a trustworthy person to receive the jewels

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE,

TO—SIR C. W. MALET, BART., RESIDENT AT POONAH

*Fort William, 25th November 1793.*

Sir,

Enclosed I have the honour to transmit you the address to the Peshwa from Lord Cornwallis, as mentioned in his Lordship's letter to you, dated 29th September last, notifying to him the arrival of the jewels, belonging to Ragonaut Rao from England, and the desire of the Company that they should be delivered to the Peshwah.

You will take an early opportunity of communicating the letter to the Peshwah, with the observations naturally suggested by this act of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, as a new instance of their friendly attention to the Peshwah

The jewels are in the treasury at Calcutta and shall be delivered in any mode the Peshwa may prefer, but it is the wish of this Government that some person should be appointed by him to receive them either at Calcutta or Benares, with a view to avoid the risk of transmission by sea, and you will please to communicate these wishes to the Peshwah, with an explanation that they are suggested by an anxiety lest any accident might intervene to prevent his receipt of these jewels.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) J. SHORE.

**No. 382**—The Resident communicates to the Governor General the arrangements made by the Peshwa for bringing the jewels from Calcutta to Poona

FROM—THE RESIDENT, POONA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

*Poona, 13th January 1794.*

On the subject of the jewels the Minister has decided in favour of the Benares route and promised to furnish me an order to the Peshwa's agent at Calcutta to comply with any requisition made to him on your part for a person to accompany the one charged by you with the jewels, also letters for Ally Bahadur and Ballaji Govind to be sent with the jewels to Benares and to be forwarded from thence by the Resident to their respective addresses, when on perusal proper escorts will be furnished by Ally Bahadur and Ballaji Govind for the safe conduct of the person charged by you with the articles until they are duly delivered into my hands.

**No. 383**—The Governor General informs Aliy Bahadur of the arrangements made for the conveyance of the jewels to Poona.

FROM—PERSIAN TRANSLATOR TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND COUNCIL,

TO—ALLI BAHADUR

*Fort William, 4th March 1794.*

At this time the Bengal Government are about to send to the Peishwa on the part of the Company as a mark of their esteem and regard the valuable jewels deposited by the late Raggoonaut Row with the Bombay Government. The Peshwa having preferred the route by Benares and

Bundelkhand to that by sea, has addressed a letter to you desiring you to furnish an escort to accompany them, which has been transmitted to me and I have now the pleasure to enclose, and to inform you that the jewels will be dispatched hence and continue under the immediate charge of an English Officer who will accompany them with a suitable escort. He has received instructions to deliver them into the hands of Sir C. W. Malet, the Resident at the Court of Poona, by whom they will be presented to the Peshwa.

To

Balajee Govind,

of the same tenor and date.

**No. 384**—The Governor General informs the Peshwa of the despatch of the jewels to Poona for delivery.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL,

TO—THE PESHWA.

*Fort William, 5th March 1794.*

You were informed by a letter from Marquis Cornwallis, which he wrote at the eve of his departure for Europe, of the mark of regard the Court of Directors had manifested towards you by directing the jewels of Ruggonaut Row which were deposited with the Bombay Government to be sent to you. I am happy that it falls to me to be the medium for conveying to you this token of the Company's friendship, being myself so very desirous of doing whatever can tend to the mutual attachment of the two states. I accordingly now do myself the pleasure of forwarding them. In order that this special mark of the Company's esteem may be as little subject as possible to risk, I have placed them under the care of a European Officer and given him directions to deliver them into the hands of Sir C. W. Malet who will have the satisfaction of presenting them to you on the part of the Company and verbally explain to you the friendly motives that induced them to direct their transmission, and the desire they have in general to cultivate the regard of the Poona State. To him therefore, I beg leave to refer you for further particulars.

A similar letter to Nana Phurnaveess.

**No. 385**—The Governor General orders Lieut. Michie to proceed to Poona with the box of jewels, carefully guarding it during journey.

FROM—THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—Lt. J. D. MICHIE.

*Council Chamber, Fort William, 26th March 1794.*

You were advised by the Board's orders of the 7th instant on your appointment to command the escort attending the jewels to be sent to

Poonah that you were to proceed a part of the way by water, meaning as far as Benares ; and that the Master attendant would survey the boat in which the jewels were to be conveyed. This having been done, and the buoy and buoy-ropes etc. ordered for the security of the box that contains them having been furnished, I have written to the Sub-Treasurer to direct him to deliver the box into your charge ; and the Governor General in Council desires that you proceed without delay, taking such route to Benares as you may think preferable, with a view to expedition as well as safety. An inventory of the jewels is sent herewith.

With respect to the orders for the different reliefs of the escort under your command, they will be issued by the Commander-in-Chief, and, as to their pay etc. while upon this duty, you will inform yourself upon the means of providing for it on a reference to the Military Auditor General.

I am directed to enclose a copy of a letter which has been written to the Resident at Poonah by the Persian Translator concerning the jewels, and to send with it a letter to Sir C. Malet from myself on the same subject.

You will proceed through Bundelcund, that being the route which the Peshwa has recommended, attended by an additional escort from Ally Bahaudei and Ballajee Govind in consequence of directions from the Peshwa. This escort will meet you at Benares, and the Resident, Mr Duncan, will inform you of its arrival there, and you will take all the care in your power that the escorts shall have no disputes or differences while together, and you will, from time to time, as opportunities may occur, inform Sir C. Malet of your progress.

On your arrival at Poona you will deliver to Sir C. W. Malet the letter under his address with the jewels ; and you will return to the Company's territories with all convenient expedition, applying to the Resident at Poona for such Perwannas and orders as may facilitate your journey.

You will be pleased to correspond with this office as occasions for writing offer and communicate any circumstances that you may think deserving of the notice of Government.

An order has been given to advance to you, upon account, two months' allowances from the Durbar cash, and those of one month from the Military Department.

**No. 386**—The Resident is informed of the arrangements for the journey of the jewels from Calcutta to Poona.

FROM—THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FORT WILLIAM,  
TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONAH.

*Fort William, 20th March 1794.*

You have been advised by the Persian Translator, in a letter of this date, that the charge of the jewels, which belonged to the late Ragoonaut Row and are to be presented to the Peshwa, has been committed to Lieutenant

Michie, and I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed copy of instructions that have been given for the guidance of that officer

A translation of the letters written by the Governor General to Alli Bahauder and Balajee Govind concerning these jewels and an inventory of the latter are also enclosed.

The escort of Company's troops attending Lieutenant Michie from Chunar will consist of

1 Subadar, 1 Jamadar  
and

30 sepoys, with a proportion of non-commissioned officers.

**No. 387**—The Resident at Poona requests the Resident at Benares to observe all caution and care in the despatch of the jewels to Poona.

FROM—THE RESIDENT, POONA,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT BENARES.

*Poona, 5th January 1797.*

In consequence of a latitude granted to me for that purpose by the Governor General this serves to request that you will be pleased to direct the officer charged with the jewels for the Peshwa to proceed with them to this place with all possible expedition.

This is written at the desire of the Court and the letter from the Durbar to the Murratta Officer appointed to accompany the Company's officer charged with the jewels is enclosed directing him to conduct them hither. without delay. I have likewise granted a duplicate of this letter to be sent to the Durbar.

It is of course needless to suggest your cautioning the officer charged with the jewels to be particularly careful on no pretext whatever to suffer them to be removed from under his charge, until their delivery to myself or the Resident for the time being at the station.

**No. 388**—William Palmer, Resident at Poona, forwards to the Governor General a proper receipt for the jewels having been delivered into the Jewellery Department of the Peshwa. [See No. 139 above.]

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

*Poona, 3rd June 1798.*

Enclosed are likewise a Persian copy of the Mahratta receipt for the Paishwas' jewels and an English extract from the former, by which it will appear on comparison with the list in your office that no loss has occurred from the accident of a great part of the stones and pearls having been separated from the strings to which they were appended.



I thought it useless to translate the enumeration of each particular stone as taken by the Paishwa's officers since it could have afforded no information, no detailed account of them having taken place while they were in possession of the Company.

The following is a substance of a Persian translation of an original receipt in the Mahratta language and character for the jewels of the late Ragonaut Rhow.

The jewels of Ragonaut Rhow Dada, which were in possession of the English gentlemen and were brought by Colonel Palmer, the Resident, from Calcutta, are received into the jewels office the 7th of Zelkada, Fussully 1198 (24th April 1798), amounting to eight hundred and eighty one articles, viz., forty ornaments set in gold and silver, one gold case for a Kullaghee and eight hundred and forty diamonds, emeralds, rubies, pearls separate

*Particulars.*

1 Collar for a horse.	Jewels loose.
4 Bracelets.	1 Gold.
13 Serpaiches.	51 Diamonds.
2 Jeggers.	2 Square sapphires.
1 Diamond ornament for the	1 Square topaze.
heads in form of a half moon.	1 Square stone of a brown colour.
4 Bauzoobunds	2 Square lusummy.
1 Phool Ghaut (female ornament)	3 Rubies.
1 Teeka.	1 Coral
4 Doogdooga suspended at Pearl	7 Inferior rubies.
necklaces.	167 Emeralds.
1 Gutmaburrun.	604 Pearls.
4 Diamond rings.	
1 Kuttar.	841
1 Mallacy Ketchry.	40 Set.
2 Paimdies.	
	881 total.

The whole amounting to eight hundred and eighty one articles, of which forty are set, one gold khulagee case, and eight hundred and forty loose, are received by Ragonaut Shedasheo Saody and Gunnais Ramchunder Puranjpie, officers of the jewel office, and Ballajee, the keeper of the said office.

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